# Procurement

The Australian government has set standards around procurement of buildings and Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems to ensure accessibility for all individuals with disabilities. The standards prohibit disability discrimination in any program or activity that receives Federal funds or is considered government related.

ICT can include, but is not limited to telecommunications products (such as telephones), information kiosks, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and transaction machines, internet and intranet websites, electronic books and electronic book reading systems, search engines and databases, course management systems, classroom technology and multimedia, personal response systems (“clickers”), and office equipment such as classroom podiums, copiers and fax machines.

When building new dwellings procurement standards state that; new buildings should be accessible to people with disability. ***Accessible*** means having features to enable use by people with a disability. This could be wheelchair access, signage and braille marked signs, suitable lighting.

There are several ways you can build accessibility into your workplace and it all starts with procurement.

Accessible procurement is not just best practice but it ensures that as a business or organisation you are welcoming all members of the community. Consider that at any time, any one of us can have an impairment. For example, a Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), restriction in driving a car, physical injury or vision loss. So having a universal design approach with software and buildings means we are accommodating for all people.

# More Information

A short read on the Principles of accessible procurement can be found here:

<http://universaldesign.ie/Technology-ICT/IT-Procurement-Toolkit/Supporting-Information/Principles-of-accessible-procurement/#diversity>

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2010L00668>

<https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/trades-and-businesses/business-essentials/building-certifiers>

<https://www.accessibleict.com.au/>