



# Manual Wheelchairs

## INSTALLATION & SAFE USE GUIDE

These instructions are to be used in conjunction with the information that your Occupational Therapist has already discussed with you.

### What Are Manual Wheelchairs Used For?

- Manual wheelchairs provide a convenient means of transport for people with mobility issues and typically fold for convenient transportation.
- The style of manual wheelchair required depends on a person's abilities and personal requirements.
- Users should seek advice from an Allied Health Professional to determine which type of manual wheelchair is most suitable.

### To Fit

- Sitting in an upright position, the distance across the user's hips typically determines the seat width required.
- The depth of seat should allow for 1 to 2 finger widths of room between the front of the seat and the back of the knee.
- The most common sizes of manual wheelchair seats are 16" (400mm) and 18" (460mm) wide and the most common seat depth is 16" (400mm).

### How To Use A Manual Wheelchair

- Always ensure the weight of the user is less than the safe working load of the wheelchair.
- For user specific instruction and assistance with use, consult an Allied Health Professional.
- If folded, press down on the seat bars to unfold the chair.
- Ensure tyre pressure is adjusted to suggested value written on tyre wall.
- Ensure the hand brakes are ON before sitting down.
- When seated comfortably with feet on footplates, release brakes and push/hold on to push rims on rear wheels to control chair speed and direction (for user self-propelling wheelchairs).
- For transit wheelchairs carers should ensure brakes are on while patient is seated and then release brakes and push using the handles at the rear of the back rest.
- Be careful using wheelchairs on gradients and consult an Allied Health Professional for instructions.



### PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY

- Be careful not to pinch fingers when unfolding wheelchair seats.
- Always ensure quick release rear wheels are fully engaged.
- Check tyre inflation & brake function before every use.
- Do not leave the chair in direct sunlight for long periods or near direct heat sources as the frame may become hot to touch.
- Wheelchairs **SHOULD NOT** be submerged in water for use in a pool or shower/bathing setting.
- Wheelchairs **SHOULD NOT** be used for transportation in a motor vehicle unless they have been tested and approved for use. Always consult an Allied Health Professional

### TO BE USED AS PER THE MANUFACTURERS WEIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS

### MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

- Follow instructions on labels where present.
- Wheelchairs should be washed with a damp cloth and a gentle soap with water.
- Tyres can be cleaned with most detergents.
- Avoid getting water inside the frame of the chair when cleaning – **DO NOT IMMERSE IN WATER.**