

Companion Card for People with a Disability

People with disabilities are entitled to access opportunities to benefit from the social, physical and health benefits of participation in community sport and recreation.

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) is affiliated with the Companion Card program which assists people with a significant, permanent disability, who require a carer to access most community activities and venues. The program is administered by ACROD.

DSR camps will provide complimentary accommodation to the carer of a Companion Card holder when they are staying in the same room to assist with the guest with a disability.

Background

Under the Disability Services Act 1993 the Companion Card has been developed:

- To promote the existing right of people with a disability to fair ticketing/event costs by not having to meet the cost of a carer to attend with them;
- As a tool to assist industry to comply with existing legislation as the card will enable service providers to verify who may legitimately require a companion; and
- As a simple and consistent method of identifying people who legitimately require attendant care support to participate at venues and activities.

The camps at the Department of Sport and Recreation, which provide programs, services and accommodation to the entire Western Australian community, are impacted by the Companion Card affiliation through supporting carers of people with disabilities to attend and utilise our facilities.

Definitions

The Companion Card is issued to people with a significant, permanent disability, who can demonstrate that they are unable to access most community activities and venues without attendant care support. The card contains a photograph of the cardholder and is presented when booking or purchasing tickets or entering a venue.

Contacts

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Resources

<http://www.wa.companioncard.org.au/aboutcompanioncard.html>

Disability Services Act 1993

Department of Sport and Recreation and Disability Services Commission. (2006) *Fair Play: Strategic framework for inclusive sport and recreation*. Department of Sport and Recreation and Disability Services Commission Perth Government of Western Australia