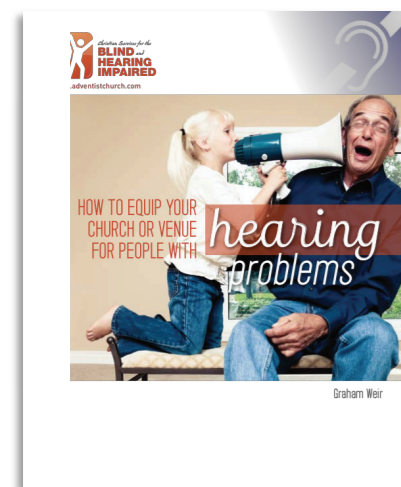
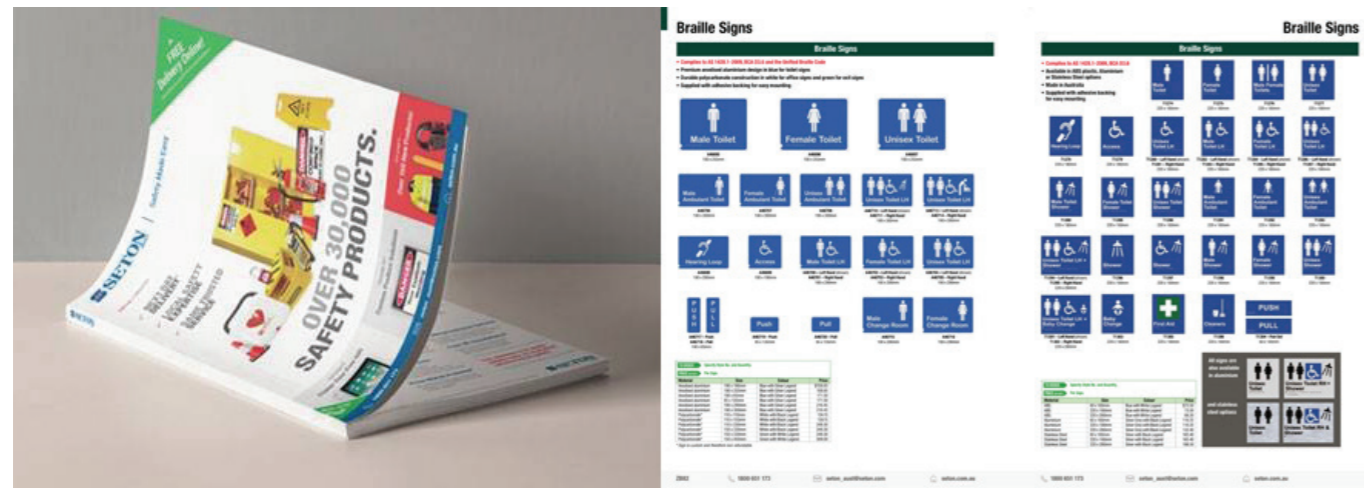


Integration-Inclusion

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Does the church have a special Needs compliance-accessibility-awareness officer?				Consider making such part of Nominating Committee list
Are Special Needs persons participating in officership, programming and general church life as a matter of course?				Ideas and programs available from the CSFBHI website***
Is there a roster for pick-up/return of Special Needs persons for Sabbaths?				
Does the annual worship program cycle ever include a Special Needs emphasis day?				
Are the Blind and Deaf integrated into church administrative and business activities?				Provide appropriate software (e.g. text-to-voice)
Does anyone in the church know (or learning) sign language?				
Is a Deaf signing interpreter used on a regular basis—and is the service advertised?				

More Information



* www.seton.net.au

** "How to equip your church for people with hearing problems"— print and PDF — available free or downloadable at: <http://csfbhi.adventistchurch.com/resources-page/>

*** Go to the CSFBHI website <http://csfbhi.adventistchurch.com/> for information about our service, to register potential clients, for news and to download information and resources.

Commonwealth of Australia legislation deals with access issues within the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA). As a principle, the DDA requires that people with disabilities be given equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to the full range of social, political and cultural activities which are available within the community. Under this law, as a general rule, a person with a disability should without assistance be able to approach, enter, pass to and from, and make use of an area and its facilities. Check government for actual statues and regulations. A further downloadable guide to all forms of accessibility is available in a City of Melbourne publication available at: <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/accessibility-design-guide.pdf>



Churches Special Needs Accessibility & Inclusion Audit

Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired, while principally focused on improving the lives of the Deaf and Blind, has a broader view that includes those with special needs and their families. This self-audit will highlight your church's "accessibility" (or lack of it) and how welcoming it appears to such people. It is a "walk through" of your facility following the experience a special needs person arriving and entering your church, and experiencing your presentations. It begins on the street out front. It is not a health and safety check, nor does it presume to cover the legal and public indemnity a public place of worship may attain. While the accessibility and anti-discrimination legislation is federal, building codes will vary according to local jurisdictions, so only a few specific checks are included in order to give an idea of an appropriate arrangement.

While legal requirements may not force you to adopt any or all of what follows, we nevertheless have a moral obligation to make our churches—that is, the gospel—accessible to and inclusive of everyone. The Deaf, for example, have been described as the largest "unreached" demographic on the planet. With social attitudes and governmental legal requirements requiring fuller accessibility and inclusion, it is important that our church facilities comply despite their age and any grandfathering.

Please take a few minutes to review your physical facility and assess your relationship with those with special needs, particularly the Deaf and Blind. Then share the report with your Board for consideration with a view to improvement and fuller compliance. Some points will be irrelevant, while others will highlight the need for remedy.

Physical Plant

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Exterior				
Are there adequate and clearly signed accessible parking spaces (min 2) at your facility?				
Are the accessible parking spaces marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility?				Comprehensive signage at: www.seton.com.au
Is there a space sufficient for a vehicle equipped with a mechanical lift or a wheelchair ramp?				Designated space is 3.4m or larger (1.5 car lengths)
Is there an unimpeded, stable surfaced route (min 1m wide) from carpark to entrance?				Ramps not to exceed a 1:5 incline?
Entrance				
Is the main entrance easily seen from the carpark? If not, is it signposted?				
Is the main entrance well-lit at night?				
Is the main entrance accessible?				
If the main entrance is not accessible, is there an alternative accessible entrance?				
If the main entrance is not accessible by a single step, is there a compliant ramp?				
Does the main entrance door have an automatic door opener?				
Where an exterior door to a vestibule is automatic, what about the interior entrance?				

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
If there are two doors in a series (vestibule to auditorium), is distance between doors at least 1.5m plus width of doors when swinging into the space?				
If threshold is vertical, is it no more than 5mm? Or no more than 10mm high with top 5mm bevelled?				More than 13mm high equals a "trip factor"
If you have entrance steps/stairs, do they have contrasting tactile stippled warning strips?				
On pull side of doors next to handle, is there at least 600mm clear wall space for wheelchair or crutches?				
Can all doors be opened with minimal force?				
Are door handles operable with a closed fist?				Replace knobs with lever or loop handles; automate
Is door hardware no less than 800mm and no more than 1200mm above the floor or ground surface?				
If installed at the building entrance, are mats no higher than 10mm high?				
Are non-recessed mats bevel-edged led and securely attached to minimize tripping hazard?				
Interior				
Is the reception area clear of obstructions?				
Do objects such as fire extinguishers along circulation routes protrude more than 100mm?				
Are aisles and routes to services at least 1m wide?				
Are potential trip hazards marked with a bright colour, cane-detectable floor finish or guard?				
Does nosing on stairs colour contrast with the tread?				
Are all carpeting edges no higher than 10mm and securely attached?				
Do fire alarms include both auditory and visual components?				
Are there adequate designated wheelchair placement locations <u>within</u> the general seating area?				
Are drinking fountains at a wheelchair-accessible height (800-1000mm) – or an alternative available?				
Bathrooms				
Are bathrooms accessible via an easily navigated direct route from main auditorium?				
Do bathrooms have clearly designated, tactile male/female symbols and Braille symbols?				Available at: www.seton.com.au *
Is at least one bathroom equipped with automatic or push-button door opener?				A dedicated bathroom is desirable
Is one bathroom able to accommodate scooters and power wheelchairs?				Allow minimum 1.5m turning radius for wheelchair users
Does the accessible cubicle door swing outwards?				
Is there a grab bar beside the toilet bowl?				
Is there at least 820mm of clear floor space beside the toilet for a lateral transfer?				
Are accessories and dispensers within easy reach of a wheelchair user?				

Signage

	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Is there a large International Symbol of Accessibility sign at the accessible entrance?				
If main entry is not accessible, does directional signage indicate the accessible alternative?				
Are room numbers/names, directional and exit sign text characters raised along with Braille?				
Are sign text characters clear?				Colour contrasting, raised 10-40mm
Is Braille signage mounted on walls, latch side of door, low enough for wheelchair users?				

Audio (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing)

Does the facility offer an assistive listening device (ALD) service for hard of hearing persons?				A comprehensive guide available from CSFBHI** (See More Information below)
If a system is installed, is its presence clearly advertised?				Insert a standing notices at entry, on-screen and in bulletin
Does the ALD system use up-to-date technology (e.g. Infra-red, FM, Smartphone)?				Listening loops are inadequate, prone to failure and poor service
Is the <u>specific</u> ALD system (FM, infra-red, smartphone) advertised, with instructions?				Downloadable from the CSFBHI website
Does the ALD system allow a hearing impaired person to sit anywhere within the auditorium?				Public venues must avoid discriminating seating
If the ALD system utilizes a personal receiver, are adequate numbers provided?				Laws stipulates number based on venue seating capacity
Does the ALD system enable participation in small groups (SS classes, official meetings)?				Use mics that feeds into the ALD system via sound desk
Are verbal announcements and information complemented by on-screen and bulletin?				Proactively provide visuals for Deaf and hard-of-hearing
Do videos shown include captioning?				Preview and add if not on video disc or download
Do upfront presentations include on-screen visual support for clarity (e.g. Bible verses)?				
Does the church auditorium have a distinct echo that impedes easy listening?				

Opticals (Blind and Vision-Impaired)

Is the facility generally well lit? (Or are lights kept low for "atmospheric" effect?)				
Are greeters aware of specific needs of the blind, and guides to seating available?				
Are guide/assistance dogs catered for, with a watering bowl and toileting area handy?				
Are on-screen presentations considerate of the Blind/poorly sighted, with large print and contrasting colours for text?				Avoid pastels; use outline or drop-lettering to highlight; appropriate colour combinations are available online
When on-screen illustrations are used in presentations, are they audio described?				Consult with presenters; provide church accessibility guidelines