

Purchasing and Redesign

The health and safety of staff and students should be considered when:

- designing new buildings including swimming pool areas,
- refurbishing existing facilities and
- purchasing new furniture or equipment.

Areas of particular concern regarding manual handling and risk to staff and students include:

- a) access to buildings and rooms,
- b) design of bathrooms,
- c) use of equipment including chairs, wheelchairs and tables,
- d) use of assistive devices and mechanical aids e.g. hoists,
- e) adequate and safe storage,
- f) access to vehicles.

For more information on design of facilities see:

The Australian Standard for 'Design for Access & Mobility' (AS1428) contains a **minimum** standard for design of facilities.

The Victorian Workcover Authority has some very useful information to help design your workplace to reduce the risk of manual handling-related injuries

http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so_aged#design

For more information on equipment to assist with manual handling of students see the Equipment and Suppliers Fact sheet in this series at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/mh-equip-factsheet.pdf>

There is also a checklist in the Manual Handling of Students Package with factors to consider when purchasing a hoist. This checklist can be found at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/mh-equip-checklist.pdf>

The Victorian Workcover Authority link above also has further information on the selection of equipment and assistive devices.