Industry Checklist

# Cost-benefit factors when choosing between ramps and lifts.

PEER REVIEWED

## Background

This Checklist should be read in conjunction with the HMinfo document **"Industry Factsheet: What makes difference in costs and benefits of ramps and lifts?"** available on the Evidence Based Review page of the Resource Library at www.homemods.info. This document will assist in the decision making that best fits the functional and mobility needs and considerations of the financial status of the person, coupled with the physical conditions of the home. The checklist is aimed at maximising the benefits of a chosen option in consideration of initial and potential costs in mind.

## Selection considerations

### Person

| | |
|---|---|
| Does the person require any assistance for transfers? | ☐ |
| Does the person have a carer available? | ☐ |
| Does the person use a wheelchair? | ☐ |
| Is the carer frail/aged or does the carer have a deteriorating condition? | ☐ |

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## Physical environment

Is the required elevation over one metre? ☐

Does the home provide space for the required length of a ramp with standard incline (no steeper than 1:14)? ☐

In case the change of level is greater than 75 cm, does the home provide space for two successive ramps with a landing? ☐

Is a home built close to a sidewalk? Or is the installation of a ramp limited by the property boundary? ☐

## Natural environment

Is the place for a ramp on steep land? ☐

Does the area have a high wind factor? ☐

Is there any climatic factor that may affect the durability of an option such as the amount of precipitation and the level of humidity? ☐

Is the function of a ramp or lift influenced by rain, ice, and hot temperatures? ☐

## Activity & affordability

Does the person have a plan to move? ☐

Can the person wait for the installation of ramps or lifts? Or does construction period compromise timely intervention? ☐

Does the chosen type match with the personal profiles such as age and financial status of the person? In other words, does the person need permanent or temporary/modular option? ☐

Is the option easily dismantled if it is for a temporary use at the current home? ☐

Can the person afford the option chosen and the building material? ☐

Does the person have a financial ability to pay for the regular maintenance or repair/replacement in the event of a breakdown? ☐

## Design considerations

### Safety & functionality

Is the option chosen compliant with the safety requirements set by the Australian Standards building code? ☐

Is the option chosen designed to avoid weather conditions such as prevention of water accumulation or moss, adding canopies and integrating heating coils into the surface materials to melt ice and snow? And were these special design features considered in estimating costs? ☐

Is the option chosen designed so that the noise during operation will not cause disturbance to neighbours? ☐

### Aesthetics

Is the place where a ramp or a lift is stalled visible from outside a home? ☐

Does the option chosen match with a home's style? Were the construction materials chosen to help the option blend into the surroundings? ☐

In case of ramps, is it possible to minimise the size? Is it possible to direct them in a way that results in a shortest length possible? ☐

Has the finish been applied to match or complement the home's exterior? ☐