



## Policy Position on Bushwalking for the Disabled

---

### *Principles*

#### **Bushwalking for all**

There should be opportunities for all people to bushwalk, including those with a physical disability.

People should be encouraged to walk to the maximum of their ability.

A range of walking trails and walking experiences should be available for people with differing abilities.

As a rule of thumb, the number of trails suitable for the various types of disability should be in proportion to their occurrence within the population.

#### **Walking Trail Standards**

Trail gradings should be readily available so that a person can readily assess prior to commencement whether they are capable of completing a walk.

Trails should be consistent in their level of difficulty. A person reaching the half way point in a circular walk should generally be able to go on and complete it.

#### **Organised Walks**

Leaders should have the option of refusing to accept a person on a walk who in the leader's opinion might not be capable of completing it. The leader should take into account the possibility of adverse weather conditions in his or her decision.

Bushwalking Australia Inc. encourages the formation of clubs and walking groups that meet the needs of various subgroups within the community. We also encourage existing clubs to broaden their membership base by holding walks that meet these diverse needs.

#### **Summary**

We do not advocate that clubs should lower the standard of walks to a lowest common denominator. We do not advocate that all trails should be "upgraded" to cater for all levels of disability. Nevertheless, there are ways of giving everyone however able or disabled, some level of bushwalking experience.