



# WALKING SPACE GUIDE SUMMARY



Photo: Adam Hollingworth

Walking is good for both physical and mental health. It also creates opportunities for social connections that improve community resilience.

The Walking Space Guide (Guide) is based on research into Australian walking comfort norms. It sets standards that will ensure that a comfortable amount of walking space is provided on streets which will encourage people to walk.

The required amount of space is determined relative to the number of people using or predicted to use the footpath.

The standards are set at levels that ensure enough space is provided for everyone including (but not limited to):

- people with disability
- older people whose mobility may be impacted as a result of ageing
- people who sustain a temporary injury that limits their mobility
- families with young children and people using prams
- people walking dogs.

The Guide provides step by step instructions and comes with a spreadsheet for calculating results.

**A summary of the standards is provided on the other side of the page.**



The Guide works with the Movement and Place framework by helping to understand the effects of balancing competing space allocation priorities on pedestrian comfort.

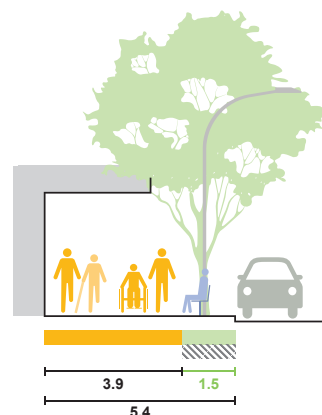
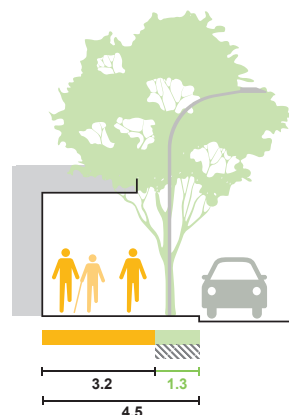
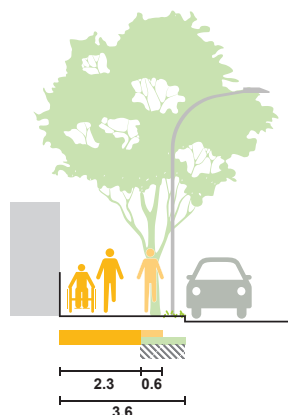
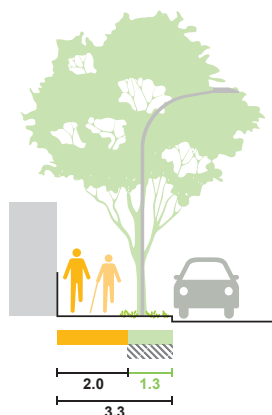
The Guide recognises that it is important for walking spaces to have continuous shade during hot months or many people will not walk and the Guide requires existing trees to be protected.

The Guide is for use on streets but not transport interchanges or where walking is highly managed.

A second part to the Guide, providing space guidance for crossings is being developed.

## Walking Space Guide Summary

Footpath Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5
<b>Typical description:</b> Local footpath – Low activity	Local footpath – Medium activity	Main street footpath – Medium activity / Local footpath – High activity	Main street footpath – High activity	Main street footpath – Very high activity
<b>Short walk interaction:</b> Unlikely to pass someone	Likely to pass someone	Virtually certain to pass someone	Virtually certain to meet multiple groups of people	Busy
<b>Peak hour maximum use:</b> Very few people per hour	7 or more people per hour	70 or more people per hour	400 or more people per hour	More than 2,000 people per hour
<b>MINIMUM TARGET Walking Space: 2.0m</b>	<b>2.3m + 0.6m Passing Zone</b>	<b>3.2m (3.0m not adjacent to active shopfronts)</b>	<b>3.9m (3.7m)</b>	<b>less than or equal to 9.5 People Per Metre / Minute</b>
<b>Intervention Trigger (less than): 1.3m*</b>	1.6m + 0.6m Passing Zone	2.3m (2.2m)	2.9m (2.7m)	greater than 18.0 People Per Metre / Minute



Low activity local footpaths are appropriate where people walking are unlikely to pass people coming the other way.

These footpaths support 2 friends walking together and passing if they walk in single file.

Medium activity local footpaths are appropriate where people walking are more than likely to pass people coming the other way.

These footpaths support 2 people passing abreast or 2 friends walking together passing another person using the Passing Zone.

Medium activity main street footpaths are appropriate where people walking are virtually certain to pass people coming the other way.

These footpaths support 2 friends walking together and passing another person without having to walk in single file.

High activity main street footpaths are appropriate where people walking are virtually certain to meet multiple groups of people coming the other way.

These footpaths support 2 friends passing 2 friends coming the other way without either group having to walk in single file.

Very high activity main street footpaths are appropriate where it is very busy most of the time.

These footpaths provide enough space for large numbers of people to walk comfortably.

**Kerbside Traffic Buffer**  
The required Walking Space excludes obstructions and the Kerbside Traffic Buffer which is measured from the face of the kerb.

Kerbside traffic speed limit (km/hr)	Kerbside Traffic Buffer (m)
0-15 or cycle lane or parking	0m
20	0.2m
25	0.45m
30	0.7m
35	0.95m
40	1.2m
45	1.4m
50	1.65m
55	1.9m
> 55	2.15m

\* for equal access:

< 1.8m, insufficient space for two wheelchairs to pass

< 1.5m, insufficient space for a wheelchair to turn, if the length exceeds 6m. Action must be taken

< 1.2m, insufficient space for a wheelchair to navigate safely. Action must be taken.