**Melissa James**

[Melissa is the founder of **Inclusive Tourism** Australia, and is a passionate advocate for making a difference in the lives of people living with disabilities while supporting tourism operators to grow their business](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/). [She began her accessible tourism crusade in 2012 after experiencing firsthand the challenges of traveling with people with special requirements](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/).

[As a qualified access consultant with over a decade of experience in the accessible tourism space, Melissa provides strategies and advice, mentoring, and support to implement change by identifying barriers and recommending simple, inexpensive improvements](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/). [She also offers training to build capacity and ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/).

[Melissa collaborates with Councils, Destination Management Organizations, and tourism operators in accommodation, attractions, experiences, and events to create accessible destinations](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/). [Some of Melissa’s clients include Gold Coast City Council, Destination Gold Coast, Coffs Harbour Council, Bellingen Shire Council, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Phillip Island Nature Parks, North Coast Destination Network](https://inclusivetourism.com.au/) and QLD Parks and Wildlife Services.