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Spatial Planning under the Livable Housing Design Standard (LHDS)



1. What is the purpose of the Livable Housing Design Standard (LHDS)?

The purpose of the LHDS is to ensure that housing is designed to meet the needs of the community, including older Australians, those with disability, families with young children and those with temporary mobility injuries.

2. When was the LHDS introduced?

The phase-in of the LHDS commenced on 1 October 2023.

3. What types of buildings is the LHDS applicable to?

The LHDS is applicable to Class 1a Buildings and Class 2 Sole Occupancy Units.

4. Broadly speaking, which areas within these buildings is the LHDS applicable to?

The LHDS is applicable to:

- Dwelling Access
- Dwelling Entrance
- Internal Doors & Corridors
- Sanitary Compartment
- Shower
- Reinforcement of Bathroom and Sanitary Compartment Walls

5. What does LHDS say about the entrance to the home?

The LHDS specifies specific threshold requirements at entrance door (being either the front door, or alternative door that connects to the step-free access path).

6. What does the LHDS say about the location of the "sanitary compartment" (i.e. room or space containing a toilet)?

At least one sanitary compartment must be located on the ground floor or entry level of a dwelling.