



Occupational Therapy Report

Activity: Sailing with Disabilities (SWD)

Place of Assessment: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
New Beach Rd
Rushcutters Bay NSW

Background Information:

A risk assessment was requested to look at OH&S issues for a group of staff and clients who will be involved in the SWD Try Sail Day program.

Observations:

Access

There is wheelchair access from the road along the wharves to the boat's berth. As there is no safety edging on the wharf staff will need to monitor the clients closely.

Loading/ Unloading

The SWD crew take control of loading and unloading clients. There are at least four crew members on board for each sail.

A portable ramp is used to load the wheelchairs on the boat which is tied to the boat for stability.



Once in position the wheelchairs are tied down using ropes. The SWD crew will complete this to ensure it is safe and secure.



The maximum capacity of the boat is 15 people including up to 5 wheelchairs, however if there are several powerdrive wheelchair this number may be reduced.

During sail

The wheelchairs remained secure throughout the sail. Carers' and crew can move easily around the boat to access all clients in wheelchairs.

Clients who are not seated in a wheelchair may need support of a carer during the sail depending on their ability to balance and their strength to hang onto the rails.

SWD crew can provide one-on-one assistance to clients not in wheelchairs if they wish to walk around the boat. Your staff will need to guide the crew as to whether they think a client can safely manage this, without putting the crew member at risk.

The below deck area is only accessible via a steep set of narrow stairs and once below deck there is limited space to move around. This is where the toilet and sleeping quarters are located.

Clients and staff are able to be involved in the decision where the boat sails and make requests as to distance away from shore etc.

SWD provide all the necessary safety equipment required during the sail.

Other

As the activity is sailing, the weather always has the potential to create a risk. Clients and staff may need to be protected against the sun, wind or rain. The crew follow strict safety guidelines to ensure the safety of all on board are protected during the sail. They will sail in all weather conditions however they may cancel a planned sail if the weather is particularly adverse.

Recommendations:

Client – Staff ratio

This needs to be assessed for each individual trip depending on what clients are attending, the length of sail and other activities that may be included on

the day. There needs to be at least one staff member to assist the clients in wheelchairs if they need assistance. Clients not using a wheelchair may need one-on-one support and the SWD crew can assist these clients as well.

As a general rule there should be 1 staff member per 2 clients, however this can be adjusted depending on the clients attending the activity.

Loading/Unloading

Your staff to allow the SWD crew to position and tie down the wheelchairs.

During sail

Your staff to guide SWD crew whether clients who are not in wheelchairs can be assisted to walk around the boat.

Staff are to plan the outing with SWD so they consider the needs of the clients in regard to accessing toilets. Staff should ensure all clients use the amenities at the marina before boarding.

Below deck is **OFF LIMITS** during the sail unless absolutely necessary. Clients will then need to be accompanied by a carer and crew member to ensure safety for boat and passengers.