

STORY JESSICA WILSON | PHOTO GETTY IMAGES



ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL

QUEENSLAND STUDY TO REMOVE TRAVEL BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

FROM WEEKEND STAYCATIONS to elaborate overseas holidays, travel is an important part of many Queenslanders' lives.

However, a lack of accessible and inclusive tourism options makes it difficult for the millions of Australians with disabilities to go on holidays.

Researchers at the RACQ-affiliated Hopkins Centre and Griffith University have launched a study to identify and find solutions to the challenges people with stroke, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury face when travelling.

Chief researcher Professor Louise Gustafsson said people with disabilities were encouraged to complete the *Travel Experiences, Motivations, Patterns, and Attitudes from people with neurological injury and conditions (TEMPA-neuro)* survey.

"We're trying to build a big-picture view of the travel experiences, both good and bad, of people with disabilities and what needs to be done to ensure they have the same access and rights as everybody else to travel," Prof. Gustafsson said.

"There hasn't been a lot of work in the area of travel for people with disabilities, particularly those who have experienced catastrophic injuries such as a spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury or other neurological conditions like a stroke.

"The focus has been on practical services to support their everyday lives but there hasn't been much focus on things like travel that give a richness to life."

Prof. Gustafsson said people with "hidden" disabilities often face the greatest barriers to travel.

"We know from previous research that people with less obvious or hidden disabilities, such as those who struggle

to process information quickly or have communication difficulties, often face the greatest barriers to travel and are the most reluctant to travel because of their past experiences," she said.

The survey will assist government and the travel industry to develop policies and services to enable people with disabilities to travel without restriction.

"In addition to the survey, we're giving people the opportunity to really tell us their stories and things they want us to know that might not be covered in the survey questions," Prof. Gustafsson said.

"I'd encourage anyone who has experienced a spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury or stroke, no matter how big or small the impacts are, to complete the survey because we want to represent everyone in the results." ■

To complete the survey, visit bit.ly/HopkinsCentreTravelSurvey.



ACORN
STAIRLIFTS

Regain the freedom of your home

Simple, safe and stylish, Acorn Stairlifts give people the chance to enjoy their own homes once again.

FREEPHONE

1800 785 711

www.acornstairlifts.com.au

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE & QUOTATION

- The only company to supply and install our own stairlifts
- For straight or curved staircases
- Indoor and outdoor lifts
- Free home assessment
- Fast installation
- Safe and reliable

