



Promoting
the value
of play

Harness seats on cableways

Play Australia supports the continued use of harness-style seats on Australian cableways as they are consistent with the risk benefit principles described in AS4685 part 0 and the broader goal of offering better play opportunities for children of all abilities.

Rationale and discussion

AS4685.4 clause 4.9 Seats requires that “Seats shall be designed so that the user can leave the cableway quickly and at all times. Seats which form loops or circular rings shall not be used.”

The apparent intention of this clause is to ensure that users have the ability to dismount when in motion if required to attempt to avoid a collision, or similar, such as if another child were stopped in the middle of the area of travel.

There are numerous examples of cableways sold into the Australian market with harness-style seats. Harness style seats are designed to prevent a user from easily dismounting and are therefore inconsistent with the requirements of clause 4.9.

The wording of clause 4.9 (or its equivalent) has not changed significantly since 2004.

The benefits of using harness style seats on cableways include the ability to accommodate children with disabilities and from younger age groups.

Falls from cableways while in motion have the potential to cause injury, such as long bone fracture. Determining which of harness or pommel-style seats are likely to be safer overall is not a simple or straightforward exercise.

Play Australia’s general preference is that where playground equipment is currently being sold into the Australian market, in the absence of evidence of notable safety issues, the industry should err on the side of the status quo.

Play Australia supports maximising opportunities for playspaces to accommodate children of all abilities.