Incorporating accessible paths at the design stage of a home will reduce the need for expensive modifications in the future should they be required to meet the changing needs of the occupants.

The benefits of incorporating accessible paths of entry and travel into and around the home include:

- Ease of access into the home
- A more welcoming home to visitors of all ages and abilities
- A more flexible home that will meet the changing needs of a family
- Ease of movement throughout the home
- Greater appeal to a wider market at time of sale

**Key Features**

An accessible path is defined as a clear path of travel from the street or car parking area, around and throughout the home that features:

- **Level internal and external thresholds** with no more than 10mm tripping hazard. If thresholds have a greater variation than 10mm they are:
  - clearly visible by the use of contrasting colours, and
  - protected by non-slip edging

- Thresholds for **external sliding doors** are to be a low profile type, installed such that the top of the channel is flush with the finished internal floor level.

- **External doors** (often the main entrance door), gates and openings along the accessible path are a minimum of 920mm width allowing a clear opening of 850mm wide. (Refer to General Design for requirements in and around the dwelling)

- All **internal doors** are a minimum 870mm wide, and allow a minimum clear opening of 820mm (free of any obstruction such as the thickness of the door leaf and door stops).

- **paths and corridors** are minimum width of 1200mm

- a **maximum gradient** of 1:8 for an accessible path over short distances up to 1520mm

- a maximum gradient over longer distances of 1:14 with landings at appropriate intervals and an **even, hard wearing, slip resistant surface** with a **maximum cross fall** of 1:40.
**Steep Sites**

On level or moderately sloping sites, an accessible path should afford access from the street or front footpath. However, on steeply sloping sites, to avoid the cost and environmental impact of retaining walls and excessive earthworks, achieving an accessible path from the street may not be possible. In such circumstances, access to the house should be by car. Sufficient space to park and turn a car should be provided, with an accessible path provided from the parking area to a defined entrance to the home.