

**CRC's 'wayfinding' system wins Qld disability award**

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**A "WAYFINDING" system to help the sensory impaired navigate buildings has won the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation the Queensland Government's 2007 Disability Action Week Award in the Building and Accessible Environments Category.**

In congratulating the recipients last week, Public Works Minister Robert Swarten said the project team had achieved a number of practical solutions to improving access to new and existing property for people with a disability.

"The project commenced in 2002 and identified wayfinding systems, technologies and devices appropriate for people with a sensory impairment, particularly people with vision impairment," he said.

"It has also identified systems, technologies and devices making access to properties easier and safer for all people."

A research team from the CRC for Construction Innovation developed Wayfinding Design Guidelines to assist designers, developers, property owners and property managers in identifying ways of improving access to their new or existing property, particularly buildings and large complex facilities.

The wayfinding system encompasses architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, lighting and cognitive landmarks.

CRC for Construction Innovation chief executive Keith Hampson said any wayfinding system involved more than just signs.

"It is essentially about the design of spaces that should assist users in spatial problem solving by providing a consistency of clues throughout the spaces," he said.

"There are four primary communicative elements, commonly referred to as clues or criteria types: architectural, graphic, audible and tactile communication."

In developing the Wayfinding Design Guidelines, researchers sourced material from experts such as architects, landscape architects, lawyers, engineers, building surveyors, building regulators, access consultants, people with local expertise and those with disabilities.

Swarten said the design guidelines were intended to be flexible within the context of a built environment and could be used by designers from a number of perspectives including systems for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers of vehicles, building occupants and visitors, including local or international tourists.



The CRC's Wayfinding system helps the sensory impaired navigate buildings



A recognised marker in Brisbane square uses raised tactile lettering and Braille for the vision-impaired