

# DESIGN STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR FURNITURE FOR SCHOOLS



Design standards on outdoor furniture for schools can vary considerably depending on which state your school is located.

This guide provides an overview of the recommendations for outdoor furniture for schools and students. If a state is not listed, design standards for outdoor furniture were unavailable at this time.

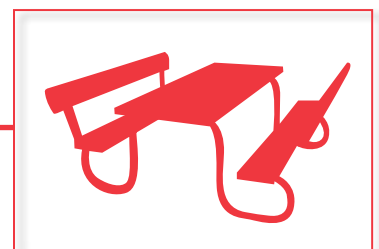


## SOUTH AUSTRALIA



### Outdoor Seating

- Fixed outdoor seating should be considered on a school site and how it can be used for outdoor teaching areas and courtyards.
- Seating can be added to retaining walls, fixed to building walls or tree surrounds
- Primary Schools Seating Height 325 mm to 450mm  
Secondary Schools Seating Height 325mm to 600mm
- Seating should be able to cater for 1/3 of total student enrolment
- Preferred seating materials: are those that do not require planting or maintenance and can withstand the weather and heavy use





## Bins



- On average the equivalent of one 140L litter bin per 30 students
- Maximise recycling and composting and reducing waste
- For new sites, lockable storage facility should be provided to safeguard the bins from theft and vandalism



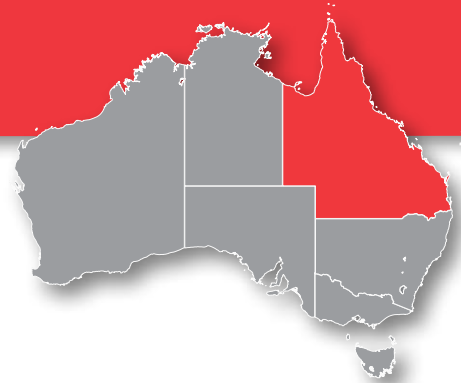
## Shade Structures

- Provide shade structures in schools to reduce avoidable sun exposure for children with fixed structures and natural vegetation
- Design should consider general shade provisions, covering playgrounds, sandpits and hard play areas
- Shading should consider the sun at different times of the year and ensure shade is provided where and when it is most required. Should consider proximity to buildings, accessibility and safety.

Next: Queensland



## QUEENSLAND



### Outdoor Seating

- Seats and support framing of external seating shall be either clear anodised aluminium or powder coated steel unless specifically briefed or approved otherwise
- Seating shall be arranged to encourage social interaction.
- Seating shall be located to back onto walls, screens or planting beds to provide a visual or physical barrier behind seating.
- The use of CCA treated timber in any location on a DETE site is not permitted
- 12m fixed seating to each Outdoor Learning area (Years P-6)/Shade structure (Years 7-12)
- Seat height to suit age of students
- Arrange in a U/ L shape configuration to encourage social interaction
- Allow space within seating arrangements for wheelchair inclusivity
- Provide social seating based on 3m per 25 students.
- External seating located to provide shade from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by shade structures or shade trees.
- Seating shall not be located in high risk locations such as adjacent to protective fencing on top of retaining walls





## Bins

- Provide a secure fenced bin enclosure located near canteen for location of (at least) four wheelie refuse bins.
- Provide a lockable, roofed and fenced bin storage area nom 3.6m x 7.2m x 2.1m high for provided mobile refuse bins and industrial bins:
- Design to suit local collection methods, size of containers (including general waste, co-mix recycling and paper recycling bins) and type of garbage collection trucks (refer to Local Authority requirements)
- Gate/s shall be of adequate size for access to industrial bins by collection trucks
- Refuse storage enclosures shall not be located near traf cable areas, or near paths of travel and egress from buildings.

## Shade Structures

- Shade provision to be provided in the form of permanent roofed structures or light weight structures and shade trees
- Light weight shade structures should provide minimum of 90% solar exclusion and be supported by suitably engineered structures
- Consideration given for shade to lunch areas and general seating areas between 10am and 2pm having regard to seasonal variations of sun angles.
- Provide adequately sized shade structure over permanent play structures such as climbing frames and sandpits, where students play for extended periods
- Shade material to have a minimum of 90% UV protection





## Bicycle Storage

- Provide secure, roofed bike storage enclosures in differing parts of the site dependent upon facilities size
- Gate and path access shall be separate from vehicular access and must not conflict with pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- Numbers of bike racks shall be determined for each site in consultation with school.



## Bag Racks

- Typical bag rack configuration per learning space – 500mm deep x 3000 long x 3 shelves high with top shelf at 900mm high, mid shelf at 525mm high and bottom shelf 150mm high.
- Bag racks shall be constructed of heavy duty, durable materials, such as anodised aluminium.

Next: Victoria



## VICTORIA



### Outdoor Seating

- Adequate formal and informal seating should be provided to encourage and facilitate social interaction outdoors
- Seating configurations must take into account prospect/vista and shade, the ages of users, and their benefit in terms of social development and interaction.
- Small group seating areas must be considered at primary schools for storytelling, outside eating and quiet activities. These should be pleasant areas with winter sun and summer shade
- Ideally, they will be separated from busy parts of the play area. A diameter of about 2.5m is suitable for a small group of young students.



### Bins

- Should operate by one hand to accommodate left and right-handed students

## Shade Structures

- Natural shade can take considerable time to develop, so built shade should also be provided throughout school sites. All built shade must comply with and be installed in accordance with the following Australian standards: AS 4685.1 Playground equipment – General safety requirements and test methods AS 4174 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- Provide a combination of built and natural shade to protect students and staff, particularly when UV radiation reaches damaging levels (3 and above)
- Consider patterns of use (time, duration and level of use), activity types, daily and seasonal movements of the sun, safety, structures, windloads, access and maintenance
- Provide inviting spaces that students will want to use.
- Shade should be designed to offer the greatest protection during peak UV radiation times and peak periods of use.
- Natural shade should be maximised for external areas where possible, excluding provision near sports playing fields. Where possible, all existing, suitable trees should be retained



## Bicycle Storage

- Easily accessible and designed to minimise conflict with concurrent flows of pedestrians and vehicles
- Racks are securely fixed to the floor or wall and must be non-removable
- Racks are the correct height and width to support the bike in two places

**Next: Western Australia**





## WESTERN AUSTRALIA



### Outdoor Seatings

- Both formal and informal outdoor seating must be provided
- Formal outdoor seating (including free standing seat furniture) must be provided at a minimum of 200mm length per student
- Back rests must be provided to at least 50% of all formal seats.
- Seating configurations must consider factors including comfort, shade, age group and their benefit in terms of social development and interaction
- Architectural features including low planter boxes, retaining walls and stairs may be used to create informal seating
- Seating options must be provided for students of different age ranges, including lower seating for Kindergarten and Pre-Primary School areas.



## Bins

- Outdoor litter bins must be provided at a minimum rate of 120L for every 30 Students, and strategically located with ready access to encourage their use and aid servicing.



## Shade Structures

- A combination of built and natural external shade areas must be dispersed throughout the site at a rate of 1m<sup>2</sup> of combined shade per student
- Built shade structures must:
  - (i) Withstand a variety of weather conditions and high winds
  - (ii) Have a UPF of 50 or higher
  - (iii) Have a minimum clearance of 3m in height
  - (iv) Not impede surveillance of students
  - (v) Include supports that are clearly visible and placed to avoid harm to users
  - (vi) Include vertical supports that are not scalable by students and that do not make adjacent fences, structures or trees scalable
  - (vii) Reduce indirect UV radiation
  - (viii) Be provided externally to cover the play equipment area for all Primary Schools, including Kindergarten and Pre Primary School areas

**Next: New South Wales**



## NEW SOUTH WALES



### Outdoor Seating

- An outdoor learning area provides an outdoor setting for individual and small groups of students to engage in learning or social activities. Teachers can use this space for withdrawal activities. They can also model social and wellbeing activities including dining and socialising in a shared space. Students see the space to create and construct or as a quiet discussion or reflection space.
- Aluminium seating with seating heights as follows: Infants 300mm Primary 350mm and Secondary 400mm
- Consider fire access/egress requirements
- Linear allowance usually 250mm run of seating per student
- Suggested fixtures for Outdoor Learning: Aluminium Picnic Settings





## Bag Racks

- Where required, units may be anchored to wall either through back, close to top corners, or by means of an angle bracket fixed to the wall and the cupboard tops.



For a complete reference guide to Design Standards for your school contact the Department of Education for your state.