

# Australian Standard 2155—1978

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## THE SITING OF A PLAYGROUND AND THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
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Australian Consumers Association  
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations  
Australian Council of State Schools Organizations  
Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation  
Australian Retailers Association  
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs  
Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development  
Department of Health (Commonwealth)  
Department of Labour and Industry, New South Wales  
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Education Department, New South Wales  
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Municipal Association of Victoria  
National Safety Council of Australia  
Plastics Institute of Australia Incorporated  
Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria  
Royal Children's Hospital  
Toy and Games Manufacturers Association of Australia

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This standard, prepared by Committee CS/5, Playground Equipment, was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 7 February 1978, and was published on 1 April 1978.

To keep abreast of progress in industry Australian standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE  
SITING OF A  
PLAYGROUND AND THE  
INSTALLATION AND  
MAINTENANCE OF  
PLAYGROUND  
EQUIPMENT**

**AS 2155—1978**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Playground Equipment. It is intended to complement the standard for playground equipment, AS 1924, Playground Equipment for Parks, Schools and Domestic Use, Part 1—General Requirements, and Part 2—Design and Safety.\*

This standard, and another being prepared to cover the establishment of 'adventure playgrounds', are intended to assist councils, community groups, schools, kindergartens and play groups etc in establishing safer and more creative and imaginative playing areas.

The committee emphasizes that the site for a playground must be chosen with great care and that any available piece of vacant land or space is not necessarily suitable.

Safe access is a fundamental requirement if the playground is to be used. Therefore, when housing schemes or subdivisions are being planned, playground facilities for the children who will live in the area must have a high priority and be considered in the early stages of planning.

Professional advice should be sought and children should be involved in planning to ensure that the playground satisfies their ideas of play and not those of adults.

Unsupervised playing spaces in residential areas should be situated so that they are within sight of nearby houses or well-used pedestrian routes to reduce the risk both of undesirable people visiting the playground and of vandalism.

Records of accidents in playgrounds show that several serious accidents and at least one fatality have resulted from the failure of equipment due to lack of maintenance and inspection. Emphasis has been placed on these two aspects and the need for detailed records to be kept of inspections and maintenance work. Check lists and a suggested record form are given as a guide in an appendix.

The placing of items of equipment in relation to one another and the surfacing that is under equipment play a vital role in reducing potential hazards.

This standard requires reference to AS 1924, Parts 1 and 2.

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\*Part 2 is in course of preparation.

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**Australian Standard****CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE  
SITING OF A PLAYGROUND AND THE  
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF  
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

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**1 SCOPE.** This code gives recommendations on the siting of playgrounds and on the installation and maintenance of playground equipment in both supervised and unsupervised playgrounds.

**2 APPLICATION.** The code is applicable to playgrounds in parks, open spaces, shopping centres, caravan parks, and those sited in school grounds and kindergartens.

**3 ESTABLISHMENT.**

**3.1 General.** Professional advice should be sought regarding the site for, and the planning of, a playground and to ensure that the playground will be designed to develop and encourage children's creative ideas of play. In order to satisfy their needs children should be involved in the planning stages. There should be adequate capacity for invention within the play spaces and equipment to allow children to vary their patterns of play. Consideration should also be given to the provision of access to areas and equipment which can be used and enjoyed by handicapped children. The involvement of adults in the development of the area will help to ensure the successful use of a playground.

Some of the factors which should be considered in establishing a playground are outlined in Rules 3.2 to 3.8.

**3.2 Site Selection.** When the need for a playground in an area has been established the most suitable site will be one which—

- (a) is located at a safe distance from hazards such as lakes, rivers, creeks, motor traffic and sporting facilities, e.g. bicycle tracks or behind goalposts;
- (b) is suitable for the children in the age range expected to make maximum use of the facilities;
- (c) is within sight of local residents who would become aware of any accident or of the presence of any undesirable visitors; and
- (d) has been chosen with regard to the local climatic conditions, e.g. wind, sun, rain, shade, and the rights of local residents with regard to their privacy and the possible noise factor.

**3.3 Landscaping.** A flat, featureless and treeless playground or play space which is uninteresting and visually unpleasing should be avoided. If such a site is the only one available, contouring related to climatic conditions,