

## **POLICIES**

### **PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

#### **Playground equipment**

Only playground equipment items, which are in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards, may be erected in school grounds. A full list of approved equipment items would be impractical, but for general guidance, the following have been approved:

- sandpits
- slides
- horizontal and vertical ladders
- horizontal bars
- gymnastic combinations
- jungle gymnasiums
- climbing nets and frames
- climbing ropes (fixed)
- track glides.

All playground equipment design and installation should conform to the following standards—AS 1924 parts 1 and 2, AS 1428 parts 1–4:1992, AS/NZS 4422 and AS/NZS 4486.1:1997.

Copies of standards can be obtained from Standards Australia, 19–25 Raglan Street, South Melbourne 3205, telephone 9693 3555.

#### **The following items of playground equipment are not approved for use in schools:**

- seesaws
- swings (including log swings)
- maypoles (including climbing poles)
- merry-go-rounds
- roundabouts
- flying foxes (see 4.4.7.4).

All apparatus must be fixed unless specifically designed to be portable, for example, A frames.

Concrete footings of the playground equipment should be set with the tops of the footings at least 20 cm below ground level and backfilled.

Impact absorbing surfacing, the soft ground surface required within the fall zone of the playground equipment, should be provided to an average compacted depth of 25 cm and maintained in a loose condition. Current Australian Standards determine that playground equipment should not be more than 6 metres above ground level, with a fall height of not more than 2.5 metres. The equipment must be at least 2.5 metres away from any fences, buildings or other similar objects on which children could fall. There should be at least 2.5 metres between items of equipment.

It is recommended that suppliers provide written confirmation that the playground equipment and its installation meet the requirements of the Australian Standards and the above specifications.

All playground equipment should be inspected weekly and repairs and maintenance acted upon in accordance with the school's maintenance provision. Particular attention needs to be given to the undersurfacing beneath and around the playground equipment.

It should be noted that there will be a new standard for playground equipment in 2003. Until then current standards are to be followed.

Schools are reminded that any accidents or injuries must be reported (see 4.4.1.1).

Information and advice on playground equipment design and construction is available from the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria, telephone 9412 4013, fax 9412 4019, email at [prav@netspace.net.au](mailto:prav@netspace.net.au), or the Internet at: [www.prav.asn.au](http://www.prav.asn.au)