

# What is a Guide Dog?

Guide Dogs WA is the only Western Australian based provider of Guide Dog training services in the community. For people living with blindness or vision impairment, a Guide Dog helps them to navigate their way around safely. A Guide Dog will enable an independent and active life. Guide Dogs are the most recognisable of all service dogs.



## **Access:**

A Guide Dog has full public access rights in accordance with the Dog Act.

## **Eligibility:**

- Over 18 years of age
- Legally Blind
- Resident of WA

## **Dog Selection Process:**

- Successfully completed six months of formal training with the Guide Dog program

## **Matching Process:**

- Successful completion of a Guide Dog Interview and Assessment
- General health of the client
- Dog and client compatibility
- Matching walking speed
- Experience
- Temperament of the participant and dog

## **Placement:**

Weekend trial placement with full support.

## **Successful Placement:**

- Four weeks of formal training with a Guide Dog instructor
- Scheduled after care visits and follow ups

*Note: Unsuccessful placement would result in dog being matched to the next suitable consumer.*