



Christia, 11.

Freedom Wheels photoboard

Thank you to all the children, families, supporters, volunteers and staff, who work so hard to ensure this program continues to put smiles on faces.



Shane, 10.



Blossom, 4.





freedom
wheels

Modified Bike Program

Cycling opportunities for everyone!



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What is Freedom Wheels?



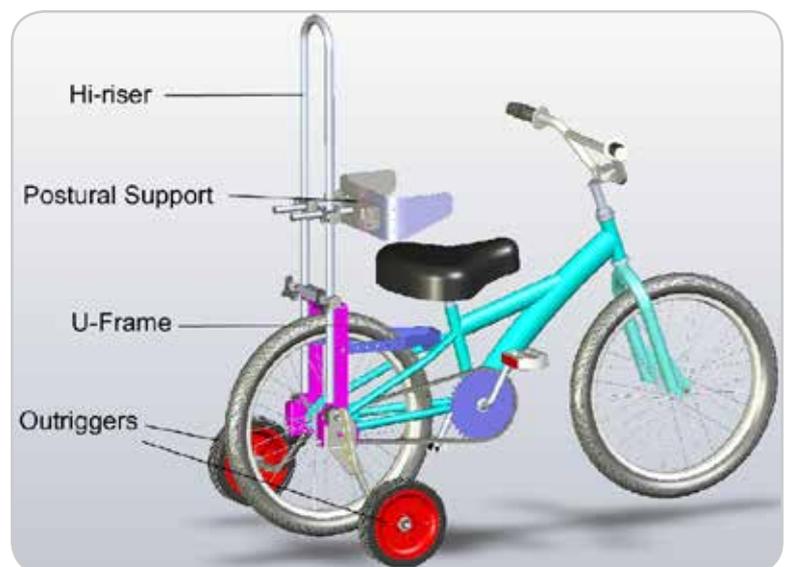
The FREEDOM WHEELS customised bike program modifies standard bikes to give independence to children with disabilities by allowing them to ride. FREEDOM WHEELS is a joint undertaking between TADs throughout Australia to provide a modified bike program.

A highly skilled and innovative team of therapists, engineers and volunteers at Solve Disability Solutions undertake an initial assessment process to ensure that clients receive a bike that is suited to their age, height, weight, type of disability and physical and cognitive abilities. Assessment days occur regularly at Solve Disability Solutions' central office in Melbourne, and selected metropolitan or regional centres throughout Victoria.

What is a Freedom Wheels bike?

FREEDOM WHEELS offers a wide range of attachments, such as outriggers, foot and hand supports and upper body supports, that are designed to fit specific children's bikes. One of the goals of the Freedom Wheels program is to standardise components so that they can be produced in volume and fitted with minimum effort. As a result, bikes can be put together in greater quantities, using volunteer time more efficiently and requiring less specific expertise and workshop facilities. The components have been designed to make the bikes easily transportable, so that parents can carry a modified bike in or on a car in the same way as other bikes. Streamlined components also make the bikes look more attractive and less obviously 'modified'.

All components used on the Freedom Wheels bikes are engineered and manufactured to close tolerances to ensure a safe and comfortable ride for our clients.



The Freedom Wheels experience

It starts with a phone call.....

Clients commence their Freedom Wheels journey through a direct inquiry to the Solve Disability Solutions central office.

Our occupational therapist, Martine Porter, considers the client's relevant disability and support needs to determine at this point whether the Freedom Wheels program is the best option for the client.

Assessment clinics

An assessment clinic is arranged for the client and relevant family members. Clinics are run with up to six children over the course of a day. For on site assessments the Royal Talbot leisure department generously allow Solve to use their basketball hall for our clinics, which enables the children to be assessed in a safe controlled environment, with minimal distractions and a flat surface to commence their riding experience. The assessment may include venturing out into the grounds to test clients on uneven and undulating terrain.

A Solve occupational therapist assesses safety and function specifically in relation to the mechanism of

riding a bike, including clients' physical abilities, and behavioural and cognitive issues. The team also reviews the potential riding environment and level of supervision the client requires.

Bike Assembly

If the result of the assessment is a recommendation to proceed, Solve commences the bike building phase. Freedom Wheels components have been designed to fit a specific bike, which are purchased at cost from the Melbourne Bike Centre in Clifton Hill. They modify the bikes if required, to change from 'free wheel' to 'fixed wheel' to assist with pedalling. Once the bike has been collected, Freedom Wheels components are fitted by our team of volunteers during a bike building workshop. The workshops occur on site in a space provided by the Royal Talbot Occupational Therapy Department.

Bike Collection

Once the bike has been completed, the client's family are contacted to organise a time for collection. As one of the features of the bikes and their components is their transportability, bikes are generally able to be collected by clients' families from Solve's metropolitan office.

Lily's Freedom Wheels journey



1. Assessment

Lily arrives at her assessment clinic to try out a bike and determine what modifications are required.



2. Assembly

The Freedom Wheels volunteers assemble Lily's bike at a bike building workshop.



3. Try-out

Assisted by her father, Troy, and Solve coordinator, Martine Porter, Lily tests her completed Freedom Wheels bike.



4. Success

Smiles all round! Lily's family can't wait to try out her new bike on the many bike paths around home.