



Earlier this year Accept Difference interviewed Port Macquarie local and mother Emily Kinney about the new special needs trolleys being rolled out in Supermarkets around the country. Emily explains the benefits of these trollies and some useful information for everyday shoppers.

What difference does it make to Arthur's life and to that of your family to have these trolleys available?

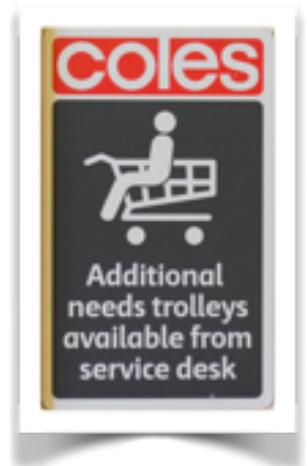
I can now confidently shop with Arthur on my own during the day, without the need to juggle pushing Arthur's wheelchair with a trolley (or a basket on the back of his chair). It also means that we can shop more efficiently as a family as we don't need to divide and conquer, taking up a lot of room in the aisles. For Arthur it means he gets to face towards us, allowing him to interact with us while shopping.

Is there anything you would like people to know about how the trolleys are used?

For safety reasons (I assume?) the front wheels on the trolleys do not turn independently. This means that the carts are more difficult to steer than a regular trolley. It takes a little patience and practice to get around with them!

They are also designed to carry up to 70kgs so they may also be useful for carers out shopping with teens and petite adults in addition to young children. This might be an unusual sight for some people, but know that this is a huge help to the carer by removing the need to also push a wheelchair.

In Port Macquarie, the trolleys are accessed by request (via phone or the service desk). If the trolleys are not locked away at a particular supermarket, I would definitely ask customers of that store to respect their use and not to abuse them. They are there to fulfil a specific need (and not to carry your hand bag or tired toddler!).



Are there ways for people to assist you and Arthur in going about this activity? E.g not making a fuss.



As above, respect that there may only be 1 or 2 of these trolleys available at a store, and there are many families who need them.

They don't take corners very well, so please accept our apology if we are moving slowly!



When you call ask to speak to the service desk!

Taree Coles - Manning Mall. 65390200

Port Macquarie Coles - Hayward St. 6588 0700

Kempsey Woolworths - Smith St & Forth St. 6561 3002

Nambucca Heads Woolworths - Back St. 6598 4100

Macksville Woolworths - Pacific Hwy, 6598 4103

Toormina Gardens Coles - Toormina Rd & Minorie Dr 6659 6500

Coffs Harbour Coles - Coffs Harbour Drive & Earl St. 6659 1600

Note: This is a selection of stores on the Mid North Coast, NSW. There may be other supermarkets in the area that have a additional needs trolleys just ask at the service desk.

For more information on Disability and Inclusion go to:

www.acceptdifference.org.au