IPCS The Institute of Postcolonial Studies

a 78-80 Curzon St, North Melbourne VIC 3051 e info@ipcs.org.au w ipcs.org.au

Updated Draft IPCS Accessibility Guide

15 October 2026

The Institute of Postcolonial Studies (IPCS) is a community-based, First Nations-led organisation dedicated to anticolonial education, Indigenous sovereignty, and grassroots knowledge-making. We work to provide accessible, non-extractive public education outside the constraints of universities, supporting racialised, colonised and precariously positioned communities to build power, connection, and solidarity.

IPCS is committed to providing a radically welcoming, culturally safe, and inclusive space for people who are commonly excluded from academic and civic institutions. In line with this commitment, we affirm a Disability Justice approach to disability. This document will guide our work to ensure that IPCS is an anti-ableist environment by:

- Providing clear information about the current barriers to access.
- Responding to the current barriers to access.
- Committing IPCS to consultation and collaboration with Deaf and Disabled communities.
- Ensuring accountability to Deaf and Disabled community members.

CONTEXT & COMMITMENTS

Whilst founded in 1996, IPCS was transformed in 2023-2024 through a significant community driven process grounded in member-led calls for accountability to First Nations communities, scholarship and sovereignty. Following this transformation

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process, IPCS has retained the heritage listed building in North Melbourne which has housed the organisation since its founding. Whilst retention of the physical space has been critical to IPCS' transformation, the building faces multiple barriers to accessibility, namely:

- Multiple steps and split levelling throughout the ground level (3-4 steps between nearly all rooms).
- Lack of wheelchair accessible, DDA compliant bathrooms, and all existing toilets only accessible via stairs.
- Blue-stone paving throughout the courtyard which creates an uneven surface and becomes slippery when it rains.
- Renovation constraints tied to the heritage listing of the building.

These barriers significantly undermine IPCS' ability to host radically welcoming, inclusive programs. We aim to repair this, and develop a mechanism for accountability, through the following commitments:

- Working to obtain renovation funding through community infrastructure grant applications.

- Providing updates to members regarding the progress of any community infrastructure grant applications, and accessibility renovation works generally, at Community Meetings.

- Hosting a minimum of one fundraising campaign per year, with all proceeds directed towards either renovation funding, or short-term accessibility measures designed to ameliorate the space whilst renovation funding is in progress.

- Apply for funding for short-term accessibility measures (e.g. temporary ramp access and portable accessible toilets) for all grant applications related to events

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and programming.

- Ensuring that unless culturally or logistically inappropriate all events are recorded or have a hybrid online component where appropriate.

- Offering a portion of IPCS School courses online per program cycle.

- Maintaining C-19 safety measures, including use of an air purifier with HEPA filter during indoor events and publicly available masks and hand sanitizer.

- Including access symbols, image descriptions and ALT text in all online publications.

- Maintaining a low sensory space during all public programming

In Nov-Dec 2025, IPCS engaged architects to undertake a preliminary assessment of the building and all renovation works that would be required to make the space DDA compliant, and accessible beyond compliance. Following this, IPCS applied for an Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program (ACIP) grant as part of its commitment to seek accessibility renovation funding through infrastructure grants. This application was unsuccessful, however the preliminary assessment produced for the application continues to be a valuable guide for accessibility focused renovation of the building.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, feedback or concerns relating to accessibility please reach out to us at info@ipcs.org.au

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GETTING TO IPCS

IPCS is located at 78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country.

By tram: IPCS is 80m from the Curzon St/Queensberry St tram stop on the 57 (West Maribrynong) tram line.

By train: IPCS is a 10 minute walk from both North Melbourne and Arden Train Stations.

Driving: Whilst IPCS does not have onsite parking, there is a mix of free and paid parking nearby.

- free 1 hour parking from 7:30am-12:30pm (unrestricted after this) on 546, 552, 561 and 566 Queensberry Street (2 spaces at each location), 1-2 minute walk to IPCS.
- Mixed paid/free parking: $4 per hour 4-hour parking until 6:30pm on weekdays, and until 12:30pm on weekends (free after these times) on 44-60 Curzon Street (38 spaces), 3 minute walk to IPCS.
- $4 per hour parking at 325 Victoria Street (30 spaces), 8 minute walk to IPCS.
- $2.20 per hour parking at 8 Roden Street (15 spaces), 11 minute walk to IPCS.

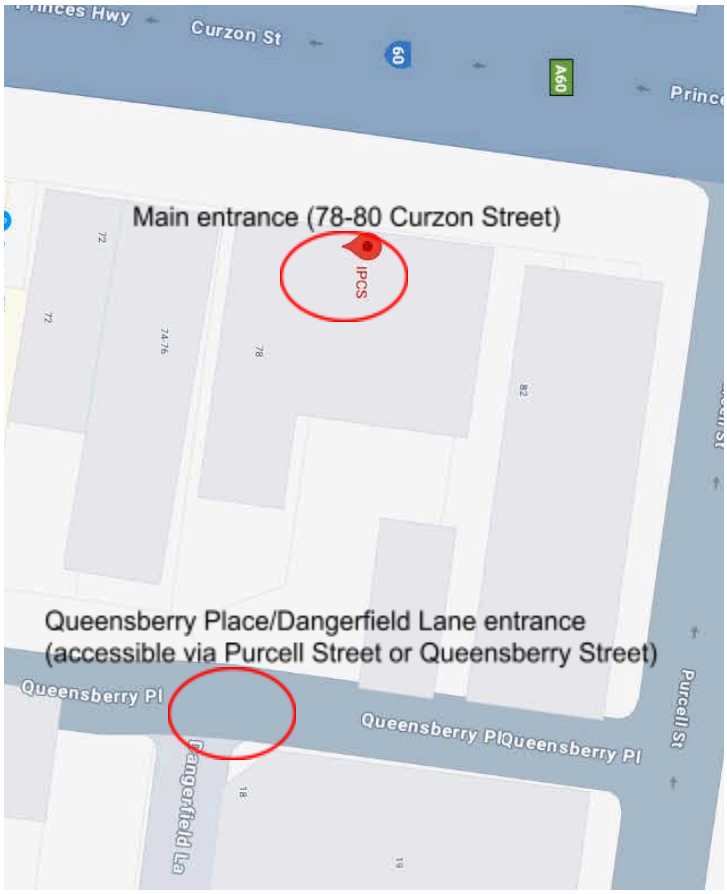
ARRIVAL

IPCS is accessible via the main entrance on Curzon Street (78-80 Curzon Street) or via the alternative entrance located at the intersection of Queensberry Place and Dangerfield Lane. The Curzon Street entrance is not wheelchair accessible due to a small step from the footpath (pictured below). The Queensberry Pl/Dangerfield La entrance (pictured below) is wheelchair accessible and leads into the courtyard space

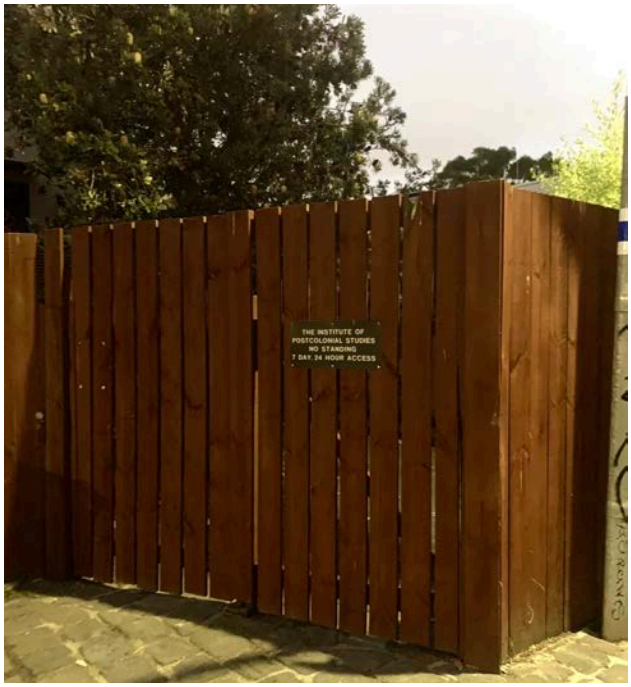
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with access to the Ashis Nandy room via ramp (where a temporary ramp has been arranged) .







Curzon Street entrance (small step to footpath)

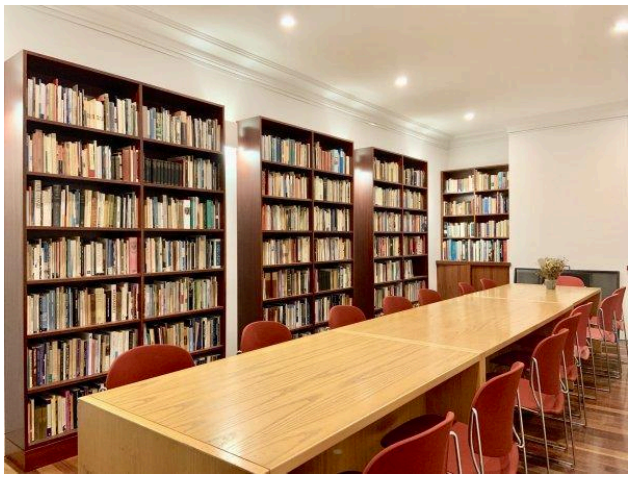


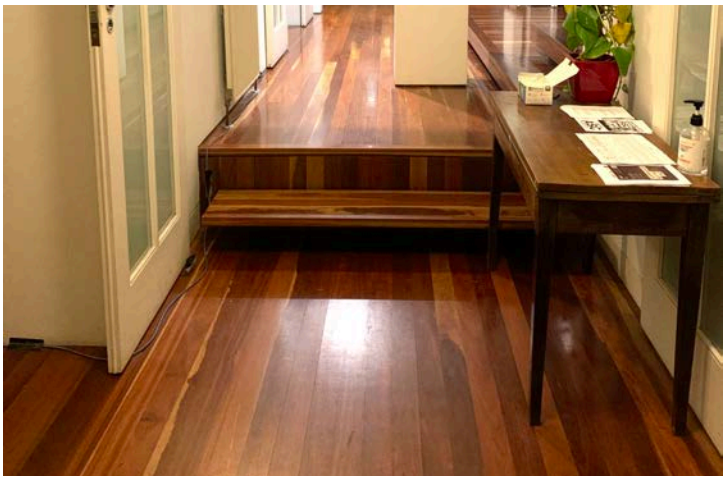
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NAVIGATING THE SPACES AT IPCS

The Phillip Darby Room

The Phillip Darby room is a medium sized library space which seats up to 14 people. It can be accessed via the Curzon Street entry and there are two steps to enter the room (pictured below). Access to the room is not wheelchair accessible, however may be arranged with a mobile ramp.

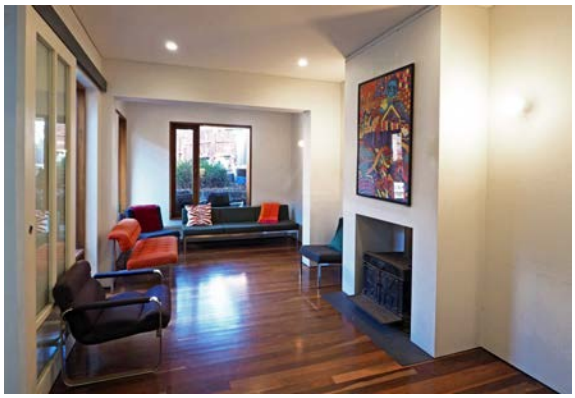




Steps to Phillip Darby room via Curzon Street entry.
Ground type: hardwood flooring

Edgar NG Gallery/Kitchenette

The Edgar Ng gallery is a small light-filled space with a capacity for 12 people nearby to the Phillip Darby room. It has a kitchenette with a microwave, sink, kettle and airfryer. The space is one step above the level of the Philip Darby room (pictured below). Access is not wheelchair accessible, however may be arranged with a mobile ramp.





Step to Edward Ng Gallery from Phillip Darby room.
Ground type: hardwood flooring

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Toilets

There are two gender neutral toilets (pictured below) which can be accessed via the floor level of the Phillip Darby room or the Ashis Nandy room. Access is not wheelchair accessible as there are three steps leading to the toilets from both the Phillip Darby room floor level and the Ashis Nandy room (pictured below). As a temporary measure, accessible portable toilets may be available for events.





Step to toilet from Phillip Darby floor level.
Ground type: hardwood flooring



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Ashis Nandy room

The Ashis Nandy room is a large space which seats up to 40 people. It can be accessed via the Queensberry Pl/Dangerfield La entry or the Curzon Street entry. To access the room from the Queensberry Pl/Dangerfield La entry, there is cobblestone ground and an option of one or two steps from the courtyard to the room. A wheelchair accessible ramp can be arranged from this entry point. Entry from Curzon street involves the initial step from the outdoor footpath, the two steps leading to the Phillip Darby room floor level, and two flights of three steps (pictured below).







Courtyard

The courtyard can be accessed via the Queensberry Pl/Dangerfield La entry or the Curzon Street entry. The Curzon Street entry is on the same floor level as the Phillip Darby room, however there are 5 steps between access to the upper area of the courtyard (pictured below). The Queensberry Pl/Dangerfield La entry leads directly into the upper area of the courtyard and there are no steps.



FIRST AID

Our staff are qualified first aiders. If you require medical assistance whilst at IPCS please ask a staff member for help.

SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Registered service and assistance animals are welcome at IPCS.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Masks are available in the hallway space, and hand sanitizer is available throughout the various rooms. Air purifiers with hepa filters are utilised during indoor events. Please do not attend the space if you have tested positive for Covid-19.

COMPANION CARD

Where events are ticketed, Companion Card holders qualify for a complimentary ticket for their companion. Please contact us at info@ipcs.org.au to arrange for a companion ticket.

FRAGRANCE & SMOKE

We ask that attendees of the space please limit use of heavily scented products where possible. All indoor spaces are smoke free. For those with sensory sensitivities, asthma and chemical sensitivities, fewer fragrances and smoke particulates make the space a place that they can attend. Please note, however, that the space cannot be guaranteed to be fragrance free.

LOW SENSORY SPACE

A low sensory information space, with stimming toys, is available during events.

LIGHTING

There is natural lighting throughout the building, and overhead lighting located in each space, as well as in all hallway spaces. There are outdoor lights in the courtyard space.