



Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

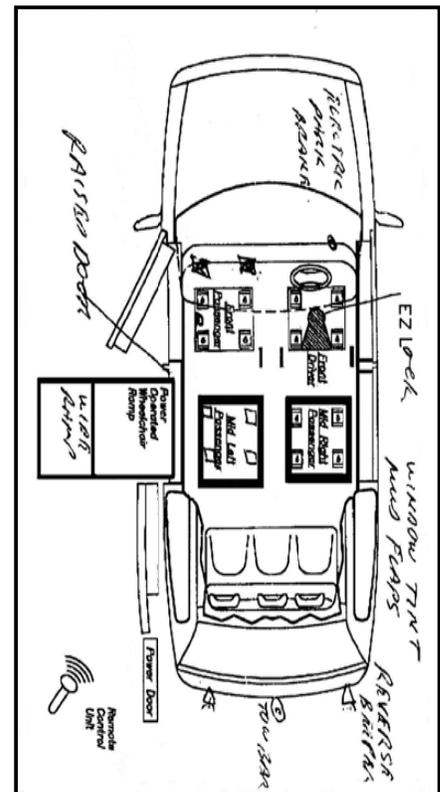
Information Sheet 3

Wheelchair friendly vehicle modifications – ACTIVAN conversations on a Chryslers Grand Voyager LTD 2001

Rodney Vagg a Queensland member would like to share information about modifications he has had made to his Chrysler Grand Voyager.

The vehicle has the following features:

- Premium lowered floor offering easy access through passenger side sliding door.
- Lowered body flare kit and spoiler minimising road grime and water spray.
- Quality ride, automatic leveling, air suspension with kneeling feature.
- Interior rear mounted spare tyre with cover.
- Slip resistant vinyl flooring.
- Carpeted interior trimming to compliment vehicle aesthetics.
- Removable drivers seat.
- Removable front passenger seat and relocatable to drivers position.
- Removable second row seats. All original seats can be refitted and used.
- Dash mounted electric park brake.
- Wheelchair restraint tracking for front passenger and mid behind passenger positions.
- Four (4) point wheelchair restraint system.
- Wheelchair occupant seatbelt stem and floor coupling, for use with original seatbelts.
- Extra wide sliding door opening (LHS, ramp entry door only) allowing 800mm usable width.
- Swing away power ramp (1200mm long x 760 wide).
- Remote control for power door and ramp.
- Raised door opening (LHS, ramp entry door only) allowing 1420mm usable height.
- Ez-lock wheelchair docking device.
- Power back and headrest support.
- Hand controls (R/H side) for accelerator and brake and spinner knob for steering.
- Reverse distance sensor.
- Safetex reels for front wheelchair position passenger side.



Mudflaps, additional window tinting and a tow bar were fitted as optional extras.

The vehicle was purchased from a business in Southport QLD at a cost of \$62,228.98 and was delivered to Capital Special Vehicles in Melbourne for modifications. Vehicle modifications and optional extras came to \$58,976.

Rodney had this to say about some of advantages and disadvantages of the vehicle.

Independence

I wheel to my car, using the remote control I unlock the door, open sliding door, deploy ramp, wheel up ramp which is fairly steep and requires a run up taking care as there isn't a lot of spare width. Wheel into drivers position and chair is locked into position with automatic floor locking devices which work a bit like hooking a trailer onto a prime mover, there is a pin mounted under my chair which locks onto floor mounts as I wheel into the drivers position. Then with toggle switches mounted on the steering column I lift the ramp, shut the door, bring back rest around behind the chair and it locks into position, put the seat belt on, start the car and off we go. To exit the car I do this all in reverse - as ramp is going down the air is released from the rear suspension lowering the vehicle to within 5 inches of ground level for easier exit/entry.

Remote Features

I have had a viper car security system installed, they guarantee the remote device to work for up to 100 feet, which it does and further.

The other feature is the remote start which is great for hot days. I stop the car with the air conditioner still on, I then can start the car from inside shops/office and let the car run for a few minutes to cool down before I enter.

Seating

I usually drive with the two middle seats out this means I can still carry four passengers. It is possible to easily clip extra seats, they can be wheeled up the ramp and locked into key holed plates on the floor, this only takes a couple of minutes. If I was not in car three bucket seats could be fitted allowing the vehicle to carry up to seven people. With me driving it is easy to put one extra seat in behind the front passenger after I have entered the car, although it has to be taken out before I exit the vehicle. Another good feature is the front passenger seat can easily be put in the drivers position for able bodied people to drive. Then my chair can be restrained in the front passenger position by anchoring the wheel chair with retractable straps on the floor, similar to ordinary tie downs.

Fuel and Parts

Fuel consumption is high about 5kms/litre. In addition parts for the Voyager are quite expensive.

Parking

Parking with side load you need to be very careful where you park, normal disabled parks are not wide enough to let you open the ramp if the car park beside is occupied.

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