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Rex talks up special needs effort

Regional Express Airlines (Rex) says it is investing a lot of time and money into finding ways to help passengers with special needs.

The airline has been criticised over its plan to impose restrictions on passengers with a disability.

The airline has applied to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for exemption from parts of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The company wants passengers who need help to move from a wheelchair to a seat to organise someone to help them at departure and arrival.

Passengers who cannot follow safety directions or need help to go to the toilet or eat will have to travel with a carer.

Rex acting managing director Jim Davis says the company is working to help people with a disability.

"We've probably spent more than \$700,000 on special equipment to help load these people into the aircraft," he said.

Mr Davis says the company wants to find the best ways to help people with special needs and recognises their need to travel.