

**Submission
No 1**

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC TOILETS

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Date Received: 20 August 2024

We need more adult lay down change facilities along NSW highways such as at service centres.

Currently the lack of them means those who need the facilities are left with some poor options:

- 1) Not travel
- 2) Remain in a soiled nappy until the destination is reached or a facility is available
- 3) Get changed on the floor of a public bathroom
- 4) Get changed on the ground somewhere, publicly, maybe the car park.

There has been some great schemes in which joint funding between different levels of government have occurred and given to councils to install these facilities. The problem with this is that it does not solve the lack of them on highways as councils are rightfully installing them in their city centres. For example, Gundagai installed one in their town centre and not at the main service centre. You could imagine Yass Council doing something similar.

People with disability should not have to increase the time of their trip to get off the highways and go through towns to utilise the bathrooms while the rest of us can stop, fill up the car, have a feed, and use the toilet at service centres.

The NDIS also will obviously not fund these facilities.

What can be done:

- Mandatory building codes for service centres on highways to include these facilities.
- Owners of these service centres or petrol companies, are formally requested to install them.
- State Government can install them. If done at private service centres, hand them over to them to maintain.

People in regional NSW should be able to travel easily. It may be for the footy or a concert, it may be to visit friends or family, or it may be to access specialist medical care. This shouldn't be made impossible because there isn't a suitable toilet facility.

The lack of dignity for not having this option does not belong to those with a disability or their parent or carer, it belongs with those of us who could make this happen and choose not to.

Good luck with the inquiry.