INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC TOILETS

Organisation: Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW

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Submission to Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service: Inquiry into public toilets

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Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association

Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) is a non-profit, non-party-political membership association that promotes the rights and interests of pensioners of all ages, older people on low incomes and superannuants. Founded in 1931, our aim is to improve the standard of living and well-being of CPSA's constituents.

CPSA's core work is:

- Systemic advocacy on issues that impact our constituents, as identified through engagement and consultation.
- Providing information and referrals to the public through our information line and other communication channels.
- Publishing news, commentary and informational articles on our website that are circulated through a regular e-newsletter and monthly print publication, THE VOICE of Pensioners and Superannuants.

Our services are free to all members of the public, regardless of association membership.

CPSA's local branches provide members with the opportunity to have a say in their local community, as well as shaping the policy and advocacy work of the organisation. Many of our branches are in regional areas, and CPSA is proud to be a voice for our constituents across NSW.

CPSA receives funding support from the NSW Government Department of Communities & Justice under the Ageing Peaks program.

Contact

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Position Statement

CPSA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry into public toilets in New South Wales. This submission relates to term (a) "the provision, design, accessibility and inclusivity of public toilets across New South Wales, including toilets provided in public places and toilets provided for the use of members of the public in private premises accessed by the public".

CPSA wishes to direct the committee's attention to the Continence Foundation of Australia's "Bins4Blokes" campaign, which aims to increase the number of sanitary bins provided in men's public toilets to support men and boys who suffer from incontinence. While sanitary bins are common in women's public toilets and in accessible toilets, they are comparatively rare in men's toilets. This makes it very difficult for men to easily dispose of incontinence products and can limit men and boys who suffer from incontinence from feeling confident and comfortable engaging in public life.

Some councils and businesses have already installed sanitary bins in men's toilets, but the rates of installation could be improved massively. CPSA therefore recommends that the committee advocate for the installation of bins for the disposal of incontinence products in all libraries, shopping centres, clubs and train stations in New South Wales, and in public toilets where no other conveniently located, publicly accessible toilet (e.g. at a train station) with a sanitary bin is available.

¹ https://bins4blokes.org.au/