

Good afternoon. Please find below answers to supplementary questions:

- (1) Is there any specific policy that needs to be examined or amended to address barriers for people with disabilities accessing public toilets?

There is a lack of current research relating to the numbers of people with disability that require accessible toilets. More research is required. In addition, the Australian Standards for Access and Mobility are based on very old anthropometric data from 1983 that underpins the technical requirements for accessible and ambulant toilets, and this urgently needs update to reflect the needs of people in 2025 and to assist in future proofing facilities.

- (2) In your submission you stated there is no consensus around all-gender toilets, which is creating confusion. Can you elaborate what you mean by confusion?

Organizations that are trying to be inclusive and support the needs of all users are confused about what is required in terms of all gender toilet provision. Whilst as a community we acknowledge that everyone has the right to go to the toilet, there is no clear direction regarding the minimum requirements for all gender toilets, so organisations are going it alone with various outcomes that may not be meeting needs effectively. This includes the design, location, and numbers of facilities.

- (3) Are you aware of locations that provide accessible adult change facilities as outlined in your submission The National Public Toilet Map provides many of these locations. Locations include large sporting and civic venues, train stations. <https://toiletmap.gov.au/>
- (4) What is the 'Deemed to Satisfy pathway' as mentioned in your submission? (pg 11) – This is available through the National Construction Code and details the minimum technical requirements that must be met for facilities to be compliant with the NCC. This does not mean they provide good access for everyone; it just means the facilities complies with the minimum.
- (5) Do you think an audit of accessible public toilets managed by councils and state government should be undertaken and if so, what are the basic standards that should be included? -Yes, I do. At a minimum AS1428.1 2021 should be used. This would determine what facilities need upgrade to provide the minimum provisions. However, I think this could also identify facilities where there are opportunities to improve on minimum compliance and provide improved facilities for everyone.
- (6) Is the signage for accessible toilets clear for people with vision impairments or intellectual disabilities? If it is used appropriately and include the international symbol of access, I believe it is. However, there needs to be more research undertaken to identify an appropriate symbol for all gender toilets.
- (7) What are the risks of implementing poorly designed all-gender toilets without proper consultation? The main risk is that they will not be used. If they are not designed or located appropriately and are not provided **in addition** to but rather **instead of** separate gendered facilities, they will not meet the needs of everyone. A range of people for cultural reasons will not be able to use them.

- (8) Why is it important to maintain gender-specific facilities alongside all-gender options? As indicated in my submission there are a wide range of reasons for this. They include, safety, security, culture, differing needs of men and women, time taken to use toilets, the difference in toilet usage by men, women, and children.
- (9) How can we better account for the cultural needs of different communities when designing toilets? We need to consult with diverse communities to gain a better understanding of toileting needs.
- (10) What features are essential in creating a truly inclusive and safe public toilet? This is a project itself and cannot be answered adequately in this response. I would be happy to consider this as a project.
- (11) How could the National Construction Code be improved to support better toilet design? The NCC could support further research in this area and identify and clearly articulate specific technical provisions for all toilets that will meet the needs of all user groups in a similar way to how it addressed the requirements of Accessible Adult Change Facilities.

Regards

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