

**Submission
No 13**

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC TOILETS

Name: Ms Fiona Davies

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Submission into public toilets in NSW

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into public toilets in NSW. As the carer of a young person who lives with disability, access to toilets is a critical and often overlooked issue.

Our daughter lives with autism. While she is able to toilet independently, she has difficulty regulating her need for the toilet, which often results in the urgent need to access a toilet. We have had many instances of accidents due to finding that public or publicly available toilets are locked or faulty or that there are insufficient public toilets.

In addition to focusing on public toilets, I would encourage the Committee to consider the issue of access to toilets more broadly, including in commercial spaces. We frequently find that there are significant queues to access toilets, toilets are locked or toilets are difficult to locate, particularly in the evening.

I would encourage the Committee to consider

The need to ensure investment in safe, accessible, clean toilets which are maintained to be accessed on an extended hours basis.

That the supply of disabled access toilets be increased.

That all public building such as transport facilities have access to toilets, ideally without the need to access the platform. This allows people to know immediately that public transport hubs will be a place in which toilets can be accessed

To work with local Councils, particularly the City of Sydney Council on improving access to toilets in commercial buildings, including in hotels, shopping centres etc and encouraging businesses to consider signage such as the hidden disability sun flower to make people who need urgent access to toilets feel welcome in using their facilities.

Fiona Davies

CEO

AMA NSW