

# Changing Places



- **WA's first 14 Changing Places locations have been identified.**
- **Changing Places aim to improve access and inclusion for people who currently can't participate in community life because of their bathroom needs.**
- **The State Government in WA has committed \$2 million dollars to establish a network of Changing Places across Western Australia.**
- **The WA State Government is the first in Australia to commit to creating and funding a network of Changing Places.**

## What is a Changing Place?

- A Changing Place is a clean and private facility for people with disability who need extra space and assistance to manage their personal requirements.
- Changing Places are different from – and do not replace – standard accessible toilets.
- Changing Places include an adult-size change table, a hoist, enough room for two people to assist and are located near an ACROD parking bay.
- All Changing Places will have the same specifications, so that people who need to use them can be confident that all Changing Places will provide the same facilities.
- Where possible, Changing Places will be available 24/7.

## Why Changing Places are important for WA

- Changing Places help make communities more accessible and inclusive.
- People with disability will be able to go to places that are currently not accessible to them.
- Changing Places ensure that no one has to choose between dignity and freedom.

## Locations

- Disability Services Minister Helen Morton announced on 3 December 2015, International Day of People With Disability, that Changing Places would be established at 14 locations.
- Metropolitan locations include Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square, Scarborough Beach, Perth Stadium, the new Waterbank development adjacent to the Causeway in East Perth and the City of Cockburn.
- In regional WA, Changing Places facilities will be located in the Albany Tourism and Information Hub, Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre, Cities of Greater Geraldton and Mandurah, Town of Narrogin and Shire of Toodyay.
- The first Changing Place at Elizabeth Quay is due to open in early 2016.
- There are a number of adult change facilities in WA but they are not (yet) accredited as meeting the specifications of the the Changing Places network.

- People with disability and their families and carers identified preferred locations for Changing Places through an online survey run by National Disability Services (NDS) WA. More than 600 people took part in the survey.

## Who will use Changing Places?

- People with disability who need assistance using the bathroom, people using specialised medical appliances and others with age-related needs are expected to use Changing Places.
- Changing Places will be locked and a key management system will be established to make sure they are only be available to people who need to use a Changing Place. This will help keep the facility clean, safe and available for people who need them.

## Project partnership

- The Disability Services Commission worked with National Disability Services (NDS) WA to gather input from people with disability and their carers regarding preferred locations.
- The Disability Services Commission developed a \$2 million grants program in partnership with the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to engage and encourage local governments to join the network. To date, seven local governments will receive up to \$100,000 to construct a Changing Place.
- The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) has committed to including Changing Places in its [major redevelopments](#) ([www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au](http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au) > By Portfolio > Disability Services > Making Elizabeth Quay truly accessible to all). [Perth Stadium has committed to include three Changing Places](#) ([www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au](http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au) > By Portfolio > Sport and Recreation > Stadium will be venue that puts all fans first).

## Project origin

- The concept of Changing Places was developed in the United Kingdom, where there are now almost 800 Changing Places facilities in public spaces, shopping centres, football stadiums and pubs.
- In Australia, a community campaign for Changing Places began in 2012 in Victoria and there are now four [Changing Places in Victoria](#) ([www.changingplaces.org.au](http://www.changingplaces.org.au) > Find a toilet) with more planned.

## Background

- [Watch a YouTube video](#) (<http://bit.ly/1Ha70TT>), created by the Association for Children with a Disability (ACD) in Victoria, which shows the need for Changing Places.

## More information

- For more about WA's Changing Places project visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) or email [CountMeIn@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:CountMeIn@dsc.wa.gov.au).