



Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



Toilets, taxi ranks, loading zones and parking spaces: Ambulant toilets

Currently, there are no requirements for the provision of ambulant toilets, which may present a barrier to people with ambulant disabilities in using public transport. There is an opportunity to ensure that toilets are provided for people with ambulant disabilities and to align ambulant toilet requirements with the Premises Standards.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

The Transport Standards would remain unchanged and no new guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to provide advice on the installation of ambulant toilets:

- Ambulant toilets should be provided as per with AS1428.1 (2009) *Design for access and mobility, Clause 16*.
- Design considerations, such as bilateral grabrails and extra length that accommodates a walking aid.
- If only a single toilet is being provided in addition to the unisex accessible toilet, this extra toilet should be accessible to people with ambulant disability and designated as unisex.
- Where two or more ambulant toilets are provided in addition to the unisex accessible toilets, the toilets may be designated as gender specific as some people feel uncomfortable using unisex toilets or have a strong cultural imperative to use gender specific facilities.

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would include new requirements for the provision of ambulant toilets in ferries, accessible rail cars, premises (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and on infrastructure, including:

- Where there is one or more toilet in addition to an accessible unisex toilet, a toilet suitable for a person with an ambulant disability in accordance with AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 16* must be provided.
- If only one additional toilet suitable for a person with an ambulant disability is provided, this must be designated as unisex.

- If two or more additional toilets suitable for a person with an ambulant disability are provided, these may be designated as gender specific.

These requirements would apply to ferries, accessible rail cars, infrastructure and premises except premises to which the Premises Standards apply.

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to reflect the new requirements.

Case study

Milly uses a walking frame for mobility. She enjoys visiting the senior citizens centre in the city hall and finds the ferry to be the most convenient and enjoyable mode of transport. The ferry has toilets aboard and this gives Milly comfort as she also has continence problems.

Milly's experience today

Milly finds that she needs to use the toilet. Usually she would use the disability toilet on the ferry's rear deck as it had space for her walking frame and a grab rail should she need to steady herself. Unfortunately the toilet is engaged when she reaches it. There is another standard toilet beside it but this has no space for her walking frame and no rails for stability. Milly's need is pressing though so she decides to leave her walking frame outside and forego the grabrails. This puts her at risk of a fall unfortunately but Milly feels she has no choice.

Milly's experience under the proposed reforms

Milly finds that she needs to use the toilet. Usually she would use the disability toilet on the ferry's rear deck as it had space for her walking frame and a grab rail should she need to steady herself. Unfortunately the toilet is engaged when she reaches it. There is another toilet beside it though which is signed for people who have ambulant disabilities. She opens the door and steps inside.

Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to 9 August 2022.

For further information:

- **Website:** www.infrastructure.gov.au
- **Call:** 1800 621 372
- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28656&name=ambulant-toilets>