

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would be very grateful if you could take the time to read my rather lengthy request.

I am a male disability support worker, who last week had to take a resident to Melb A/port as they were joining a supported holiday and flying to Queensland.

This resident is wheelchair bound and unable to bare weight, which means unable to transfer from her chair to a toilet without manual handling.

2 staff are required to lift the person from her chair to toilet (this is against all oh&s policy as a hoist should be used).

On arrival at Melb A/port Qantas departures the person needed to be toileted. I could not believe it the disabled toilet was a room within the Female toilet. I had no alternative than to enter the female toilet to assist the client as we had already travelled 5 hours (client needed to go).

I was then chased out of the toilet by one of the cleaners, who said I should not be in female toilets. Whilst I agree, what about my clients need. The cleaner was VERY rude and would not listen to why I needed to assist the client. This client left home at 7am, was unable to go to the toilet after the stress from above incident (although we did try later), had a 2 hr stopover in Sydney with same scenario (no Lift & 1 staff) continued to Brisbane, then just missed train to Gold coast so was delayed arrived at Motel 11pm without being able to go to the toilet and being told not to drink fluids.

As a basic human right a person with a disability has the right to be treated equally and not be discriminated against.

PLEASE can you assist by arranging a simple alternative (PLACING A LIFTING RAIL IN 1 DISABLED TOILET)

I have copied an earlier request that I have been advocating on behalf of the client that has been forwarded to many organizations, ministers, governments and councils without a positive response.

MAY YOU CONSIDER TAKING A LEAD ROLE & IMPLIMENT SUCH A SIMPLE LOW COST SOLUTION.

Dear All,

My name is Neville Manson and I work in the field of disability housing, outreach, day program and community inclusion. I am employed by the Dept of Human Services, Kyeema, and Karingal.

Part of my role is to support disabled people in accessing the community in various ways shopping, concerts, events, tourism, holidays etc.

Much planning is undertaken to ensure a successful outcome for those participating.

On a recent visit to a town in our region, 1hr drive & within 100kl (no need to name town as I find a similar situation exists in every town) it was very apparent the need for disabled toilet facilities with hoist tracking.

I hope to explain myself; I took a client in an electric chair, who cannot transfer or bear weight & requires full assistance/hoist to transfer for toileting. I contacted the hospital before departing hoping that I may use their facility, but was told nil available. This client had to cease fluid intake until they returned as no facility was available that I was able to find. This client had to hold on all day a period of 8hrs 11am - 7pm. I'm sure you would agree not a very suitable arrangement & no we refuse to use nappies, respecting clients dignity.

May I suggest a simple solution; If public 24hr access disabled toilets had a ceiling rail placed in them (this should be made mandatory & part of the building code) how easy it would be to use our existing voyager portable lifter.

Unfortunately there are many clients/persons that could benefit from such a simple solution.

Many of whom find this problem limits their community access outside of their own town.

Could you kindly pass this request on to the relevant Department.

If I have failed to make this option clear and you require further information, I would be glad to provide further information or demonstrate equipment required.

Yours Truly,

Neville Manson

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