



PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

Serving Our Community

Our Ref: BF:cnb (1504834)
Contact: Ben Felten
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27 September 2007

Ms Sharon Kennard
Allen Consulting Group
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Dear Sharon

Accessible Toilets on Large Aircraft

It has recently come to Council's attention that the Allen Consulting Group has been engaged to undertake a review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public transport.

We understand the initial deadline for written submissions was Friday 24th August. However after raising the matter of Accessible Toilets on Aircraft with you I understand that Allen Consulting will accept this late submission.

A constituent and local family have recently raised with a Penrith City Councillor the matter of accessible toilets on airplanes. The local family recently returned from an overseas holiday. The family includes a son with multiple disabilities.

During the flight to New Zealand, the family experienced the challenge of having to use a standard toilet on the airplane. The son, who uses a wheelchair, is normally independent when toileting but required assistance in these circumstances. The toilet proved too small for the father and son. They were extremely upset as there was no dignity or privacy.

The family believe that all large aircraft should provide at least one (1) accessible toilet when passengers have notified the airline of their particular needs. Council has been informed the family has lodged a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission in relation to their experience.

This matter will be formally reported to Council's Disability Access Committee on Wednesday 3rd October. Given that the latest you will receive this submission is Tuesday 2nd October I forward this correspondence so the issue can be considered in the development of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport that Allen Consulting is undertaking on behalf of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this late submission.

If you have any further questions please contact Ben Felten, Council's Disability Services Officer, on 4732 8081 or bfelten@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Erich Weller

Community and Cultural Development Manager