



Association for
Children with a
Disability

Support Educate Influence Achieve

PRESS RELEASE

Fully accessible toilet at MCG a major win for people with disability

8th April 2015, Melbourne: The introduction of a new fully accessible toilet facility for people with severe and profound disabilities at the MCG will help break down a fundamental social barrier and help thousands of individuals and their carers participate in the social and cultural life of Victoria, according to ACD (the Association for Children with a Disability).

“We congratulate the Victorian Government and MCC for taking steps to make this iconic venue more inclusive and accessible for people with a disability. This is the first Changing Place facility in a major sporting and entertainment venue in Victoria and we are hoping this will set a precedent for other similar facilities,” commented Elizabeth McGarry, ACD CEO.

The Changing Place toilet, a state of the art facility which includes an adult sized change table and hoist, opened on 3rd April, just in time for the kick-off of the first game of the AFL season, between Richmond and Carlton. It is one of a small handful of toilets which cater to the needs of up to 200,000 Australians with a disability who are unable to use the bathroom without assistance.

“This is definitely cause for celebration – my family can now enjoy a full game of football without worrying about what to do when nature calls,” commented Di McCarthy, mother of 29 year old Brendan, a keen Richmond supporter with cerebral palsy.

“Brendan is very social and loves getting out and about but we usually need to limit our trips to being close to home because there are no public toilet facilities suitable for him. The only alternative is to change him on the floor of a public toilet, which is a humiliating, unhygienic and dangerous solution.”

This facility is one of three Changing Place facilities funded by the Victorian government in iconic Melbourne locations. The other two, located at Rod Laver Arena and the Melbourne Zoo, are expected to open in the near future.

The Changing Places project originated in the UK in 2006 where there are now over 700 facilities available in shopping centres, airports, sporting venues and other major public spaces. Around the country Changing Places advocates, mainly individuals with a disability and their carers, are advocating for the inclusion of Changing Place facilities in their community.

Advocates are also pushing for the inclusion of Changing Places in certain types of new developments in the Building Code of Australia which is being reviewed this year. Currently there are no legal requirements to include this type of toilet facility.

Melbourne mother Niki Harrison last week uploaded a video of herself changing her daughter on the floor of a public toilet which went viral, attracting over 24,000 hits in under 24 hours.

ACD (The Association for Children with a Disability) is the leading advocacy and information service for children with any type of disability and their families living in Victoria

For media information, please contact May Ng 0420 733 429 mayn@acd.org.au