



30th June 2020

To Who it May Concern,

A LETTER OF SUPPORT

Re: The Nationwide Build of *Registered* Changing Places in New Zealand

I would like to pledge my support for a nationwide build of *registered* [Changing Places](#) throughout New Zealand. We are a family who travel extensively and write about our accessible and inclusive adventures.

Several years ago we started to follow the [Changing Places campaign](#), founded in the UK. The campaign to build Changing Places in the UK has gained immense sponsorship and support from organisations and government resulting on over 1300 being built to date. Changing Places is growing internationally and a few years ago they started cropping up in [Australia](#). The Australian government recognised their need, including them into their own building codes. Each facility has to meet their standard to be registered as a Changing Place in Australia.

We are a family that needs these facilities because our son, now 15 years old is unable to self-transfer onto a toilet or change table without a hoist. This is because he was born with Cerebral Palsy coupled with severe developmental delay. He loves to travel and be included in as many family activities as possible. And we, as a family want him to travel along. However, without fully accessible bathrooms like these we often have to leave him behind in respite services. This shouldn't have to be the case if society allowed his needs to be met.

Access to a toilet is essential to everyone and there is a high percentage of our society who have never been provided for.

So why do we trust and support **registered Changing Places**?

That's simple to answer and reflected in the following points:

- *The standard of these bathrooms is high, fully accessible and are trusted by users to meet the need.*
- *A life-time registered electronic tag system exists to keep the equipment well maintained and safe from misuse. This 'tag' can be funded by disability and health organisations. No need for a user to have to fund it themselves.*
- *The founder/designer for Changing Places NZ has been meticulous from concept and has designed these as a user herself. We now have **two** 'state of the art' Changing Places in New Zealand to be proud of.*
- *Location, users will know where the bathrooms are located and will plan their trip around them accordingly.*



Why we **do not** encourage random fully accessible bathrooms like this to be built?

Quite simply because of the following points:

- *Each public bathroom will need security to keep equipment safe from misuse and well maintained. This will result in users having to carry a mass of different swipe cards and keys.*
- *The standard for these bathrooms will become confusing to users, this has already come into fruition in the UK. This is also evident in present day public accessible toilets in New Zealand. They vary in size, layout and accessibility, some of which fall short of standard building codes.*
- *Location, how will we know they exist? It is paramount that users know where these facilities are for planning.*
- *Cost cuts, design cuts and retro-fits can all be detrimental to the user. It is important to have the input of people who are experts in this field.*

We will conclude with the added extras that the *registered* Changing Places NZ provide which we as a family would find essential:

- Shower system with drainage to keep everyone safe from slips. Accidents do happen and the ability to shower of is essential.
- Height-adjustable sink to provide dignity to user. Our son was over the moon to finally be able to reach a tap and clean his own hands.
- Privacy screen for both carer and user to utilise facility, the designer has thought of everything.
- Adult-size adjustable change bed with a wipe clean surface and drainage system. Great product and very hygienic.
- Essential disposable bins for healthcare products.

These bathrooms make the lives for disabled and their caregivers' matter. They provide inclusion in society and are the way forward to enabling good lives. If any further support is needed in terms of building nothing less than the best feel free to connect.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border. The signature appears to be 'Kimberly Graham'.

Kimberly Graham

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Manages [The Accessible Travel Forum, New Zealand](#)