

# Guide to planning and delivering Changing Places toilets in Australia



# The **real challenges** in delivering Changing Places

## Why is it challenging?

For local governments, the challenge of building Changing Places toilets goes beyond simply understanding their importance. The real hurdles are high costs and complex planning. The average cost of a Changing Places facility can reach up to \$230,000, which is a significant stretch on capital works budgets, even with government grants. In addition, these projects require navigating a maze of stakeholders, planning approvals, and compliance standards.

## How to overcome these challenges

Successfully delivering Changing Places toilet buildings requires a strategic approach. Partnering with the right supplier can help streamline this complex process. From securing funding to managing compliance and design, an experienced partner ensures your project stays on time, within budget, and fully compliant with all regulations.



# Planning and funding complexities

## Managing the planning process

Planning a Changing Places facility is no simple task. It involves coordination across multiple areas, such as architecture, engineering, compliance, and community engagement. Without proper management, the process can quickly become overwhelming, leading to delays and potential roadblocks.

## Navigating the funding landscape

Cost can be a major hurdle. While government grants are available, they only cover a portion of the expense, leaving local governments to find additional funding. Identifying and securing these funds is essential to ensure the project moves forward.

## How the right supplier simplifies the process

Working with an experienced supplier can be the key to overcoming these challenges. Here's how the right partner can help:

### Step 1: Funding Support

A knowledgeable supplier will assist you in identifying and applying for government grants, such as those offered by Commonwealth and state governments. They'll also help you find co-funding opportunities and ensure that your project meets all eligibility requirements.

### Step 2: Design and Compliance Expertise

From the very beginning, the supplier should manage the technical specifications required to meet Changing Places guidelines, along with AS1428 'Design for access and mobility.' They will work with your architects and engineers to ensure the designs are both compliant and seamlessly integrated into public spaces.

### Step 3: Project Coordination and Stakeholder Management

Local governments must often secure approvals from councils, community groups, and planning authorities. A strong supplier will help manage these relationships, keeping all parties aligned throughout the project to avoid unnecessary delays.



# Key tips for delivering a successful Changing Places facility

## Tip 1. Secure funding early

- **Apply for available grants:** Review all relevant grants from both Commonwealth and state governments, ensuring that your project is build-ready to increase your chances of securing funding.
- **Seek multiple funding sources:** Don't rely on a single grant. Explore co-funding options, such as private partnerships, and leverage your capital works budget. This strategy ensures financial stability and mitigates risk.

## Tip 2. Engage stakeholders

- **Community engagement:** Early involvement of local councillors, community members, and other key stakeholders will help ensure your facility is well-received and addresses the community's needs.
- **Seek executive sponsorship:** Gaining internal buy-in from leadership and securing executive sponsorship is crucial for aligning your project with broader strategic goals and ensuring it moves forward smoothly.

### Tip 3. Prioritise compliance and long-term usability

- **Design for compliance:** Ensure your facility meets all necessary guidelines, from Changing Places standards to AS1428, which includes installing key features like adult-sized changing tables, ceiling hoists, and space for multiple assistants.
- **Durability and design:** Public toilets need to be both functional and aesthetically pleasing. A well-designed facility should fit seamlessly into the surrounding environment while being durable enough to withstand heavy use and vandalism..

### Tip 4. Partner with an experienced supplier

- **Work with a trusted supplier:** Whether you're looking for a complete turnkey solution or specific design and compliance support, choosing a supplier with a proven track record ensures your project will be delivered on time, within budget, and fully compliant with all relevant standards.



# The importance of **timely action**

## Potential impacts of project delays

Delaying the delivery of a Changing Places facility can result in missed opportunities to enhance public infrastructure. Your community may continue to lack essential accessible services, which could impact public satisfaction, particularly for individuals with disabilities and their families. Additionally, postponing the project could mean missing out on available grant funding, which may not be accessible in future cycles.

## Benefits of moving forward

Completing a Changing Places project ensures that your community has inclusive and accessible facilities, which can lead to greater public engagement and satisfaction. Additionally, timely delivery of these facilities helps local governments meet important accessibility standards and demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and social responsibility.



# Why partnering with Modus makes the **difference**

Modus is a proud sponsor and supporter of the Changing Places initiative. We offer two pre-designed, engineered, and Blue-certified designs that are ready to install, making the entire process simpler and faster. Our extensive experience in constructing public toilet facilities means we understand the unique challenges you face. From design to compliance and funding consultation, we manage every aspect to ensure your project runs smoothly.

Partnering with Modus means a hassle-free process. From forward budgeting to the final ribbon-cutting, our designs are fully compliant with Changing Places and AS1428 standards, ensuring usability, safety, and longevity.



## Ready to move forward?

Contact us today to schedule a consultation. We'll help you navigate the complexities of planning and funding, ensuring your Changing Places project is delivered successfully, on time, and with minimal stress.

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