

19/03/2019
Hularii Mckenzie
4 Wadsworth Crescent
Redwoodtown
BLENHEIM 7201

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to address two points:

1. Further installation of other Changing Facilities for those in need in the CBD
 2. Signage and Advertising of 'Te Huri @ Liz Davidson Place'
1. The installation of the Changing Space 'Te Huri @ Liz Davidson Place' when discussed was a beginning of changing points throughout the Blenheim CBD, first being at Liz Davidson, then the health hub (Which hasn't eventuated) and then lastly when the new Library project is put into action. As the Library is now picking up steam I thought it was an appropriate time to ask Council that we reconsider placements of further changing stations in the CBD. Speaking to organisations and parents of those differently abled it is felt that having a Changing Place would be the most beneficial to all involved if it was placed at Pollard Park. Currently both the Council and the Differently Abled Children of Marlborough Group has endeavoured to make this park an accessible area for everyone, I cannot tell you how much this has changed going to the park for our family, where we would be letting our 'able bodied' children play and our daughter in a wheelchair would have to be tended to until they were finished, they can all now actively play together. Unfortunately with the park not having a Changing Place we cannot stay for long as the closest changing facility is the one in town or we have to change her in the back of our van. This was the case again when as a family we went to one of the Summer Concerts and as there is no change facility were forced to change in the van. Our daughter is now 9 years old and it is completely inappropriate for us to at her age be undressing her in public just to give her the basic of needs, a fresh change. Council has to understand if this was a normal child being undressed at 9 years old in the car park of our main park, with everything puberty entails on show, it would be unacceptable. We need to be provided with adequate changing facilities at the park so we can enjoy what the rest of the community enjoys as best we can and so leaving the park, we are now able to enjoy, isn't the only option. I have taken the time to attach the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child articles, we believe impact the rights of our daughter and others in not having adequate change facilities both to their health and their right to leisurely activity and encourage the council to read them in their entirety. I have again attached a link to the Changing Places Website, Changing Places has opened the first Changing Places facility in Hamilton that meets the changing needs of those Differently Abled old and young alike. As Pollard Park is our town's destination park this would put Marlborough on the map as an accessible accommodating town. We would like to ask that council involves those this Changing Place would benefit most by having parents and caregivers advice and input on what is needed/required for use in all stages of putting one in.

Changing Places
<http://changingplaces.org.nz/Content/Home.htm>

2. I am writing to again ask for council to put a label on the disability change room 'Te Huri @ Liz Davidson Place'. I have both in person and by email asked for this to happen but to no avail. When we have spoken about this it has always been cited as a vandalism risk to the room, though I can appreciate that vandalism will always, with anything provided to the public, be a possibility, not having it labelled means those that need it cannot find it so it makes the use of the room moot. When showing both Deana Quissy (MOE) and Linda (CCS) through the room for possible clients they had that could use the room, both expressed how they had tried looking for the room and neither knew where it was and the concern was that in turn their clients and carers would also not be able to find the room. Everyone who accesses the room has a vast number of person/s who work with them, for ourselves our daughter has two teacher aides and a ORS teacher who could take her into the community as well as family members and respite carers, if I haven't shown them the room myself, there is no way for them to know where it is. Every other toilet in the Liz Davidson Park has a sign on it to ensure those who need a toilet can find one, so they can access their basic human right of adequately being able to go to the bathroom, why can we not have the same standard upon what our children use as their toilet. We need to have no doubt at all that this is the change room we are after and appropriate signage will do that. To not have a label on the door also has the air that council is trying to hide those who would use the room, this is also echoed by the lack of advertisement and acknowledgement that this facility is even built and available to all those in our community that have a need of it. Every time we have used the room, community members have expressed how they never knew it was even there. We would ask council to have knowledge of the room available on their website and/or Marlborough App to ensure awareness of the room is out there for those that need it. As discussed with Jane Tito and Grahame Smail, we have had an offer by Max George Joiners to fabricate a sign free of charge of the name 'Te Huri', also speaking to CCS Disability Action they have also supported signage of the room with a letter (Please see attached) and the offer of a small attachable disability sign. I would ask both to be put on the room. The reason of having the room is so those in need can access changing facilities, we need to know where the room is to do this and would ask council to take this on board.

Please also see the 'sign in support' attachment, from other families/caregivers/support workers.

I look forward to council's response to both these matters, and as always you are welcome to contact me either by:

Email: bubbaamber_bailey@hotmail.com

Cell: 027 860 8157

Regards

Convention on the Rights of the Child

As taken from <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/crc.pdf>

Article 23

1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.
2. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.
3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development
4. States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 24

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.
2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (a) To diminish infant and child mortality; (b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care; (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution; (d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers; (e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents; (f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.
3. States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.
4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

As taken from <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/crc.pdf>

Article 27

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.
3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.
4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad. In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of the child, States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Sign in Support of Letter to Council Dated 19/03/2019
By Hularii Mckenzie Re: Changing Place and Signage

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

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