



## Draft Policy – Specialist change facilities

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### Feedback (use additional pages if required)

Have a few feedbacks on the Draft Policy for Specialist Change Facilities.

- Specialist change facilities will generally include the following features: - As mentioned in our combined letter, the equipment mentioned is necessary i.e. height-adjustable, adult-sized changing table, ceiling track hoist system, wall-mounted handrails, accessible toilet. But as outlined and utilized by a Changing Places Facility the need for a privacy screen, so users can access the toilet with as much privacy as they can whilst carers may need to stay in the room, a high low change table with access to showering facilities because as us in the disabled community know there are number 1s, number 2s, and number 3's that require washing down, and this can happen anytime, any day of our lives, a hi lo basin for hand washing, the users of this facility will have a range of disabilities but more importantly abilities that need as much help to practise like something as simple as handwashing, if someone can't reach the sink, it can't be used. Changing Places utilizes the most up to date and reliable equipment from sound companies, therefore we have been advocating for a Changing Places Facility. Where we are trying to break the mould, they have successfully helped Disabled communities have facilities that are in short, life changing from lived in experience. We should be modelling our policy towards a Changing Places facility wherever we are thinking of having a 'Specialist Change Facility'. **We ask addition of Modelling of our Policy be on having a Changing Places facility, this should be our benchmark so we are aiming for the gold standard with expert advice and robust equipment for our community**
- At least one Council provided specialist change facility will remain open 24 hours daily: – Again as detailed the need for as many of these facilities to be 24/7 cannot be stated enough, as opposed to 'normal' people toileting cannot be planned, it can happen anytime and if the facility closes it cannot be used. Changing Places utilizes like we have at Te Huri @ Liz Davidson swipe card access to protect equipment and make sure only those that need it will use it, this also makes utilization of their National circuit of Changing Facilities possible for visitors to different regions, one card accesses them all and we are missing the opportunity to streamline this process if we aren't a Changing Places Community. Like in the New Library plan having a Changing Places incorporated in the design of the building but accessed separately to the main building makes it possible for it to be 24/7. Our family and others frequently need toileting after hours, for local events, for dinner out with the family, when travelling it is important where we can to make this a must. We ask it is amended to say – **As many as possible of Council's provided specialist change facility will remain open 24 hours daily**
- In addition to the specialist change facility at Stadium 2000, there will be two other specialist change facilities located in Council buildings in Blenheim: - Please know there is no specialist change facilities at Stadium 2000, we use the stadium 2000 every Friday (before COVID-19) for hydrotherapy and exercise for our girl as well as other differently abled children and adults, there are two large change rooms with double doors, one has an electric high lo portable change table and a portable hoist that is sometimes in the room, and sometimes not – some days it needs to be asked for from where it is stored. The other has a manual hi lo bed (supplied by us) in again what is a standard large changing

room, the walls are not enclosed to protect privacy or warmth of those being changed who cannot control their temperature and are more susceptible to sickness, there are no hand washing facilities in the room at all – we are not dealing with baby stool and changing etc. we are dealing with young to adult stools so hygiene is paramount, utilising the hoist with the change tables as they are cannot happen in some cases because the user cannot use it as the hoist doesn't lift them high enough, there is a standard locking system and it is utilized by everyone, there is also not enough room as it doesn't have a ceiling track hoist, it has a seating bench in both rooms so to have a wheelchair in the room and moving a grown person is near impossible, usually this is a case of putting the wheelchair, all the bags, medication and electronics on the chair out in the hallway/corridor without being able to watch it. There are also no showering facilities to wash off the person after a swim let alone any 'mess' that needs cleaning up. This is not a specialised room and to call it as such is a disservice to those who need proper accessible changing facilities. Could clarification be given of the other two facilities? New library and Pollard Park? **We ask the comment about the Stadium 2000 be removed as it is simply not true.**

4. Where additional facilities are requested in Blenheim, the matters that will be considered include: a) the need identified for the additional facilities b) the extent to which existing facilities are used or cannot accommodate the additional demand c) the location proposed and the numbers of people anticipated to attend or be accommodated at the location d) the costs of installing the facility and ongoing maintenance costs – As we all know having a place to toilet is a basic human right, everyone needs to use the toilet, it just happens a specialized room is what our disabled community need as a toilet, we shouldn't be focused on the number of people who will use it, if one person needs to use a Specialized changing facility it is worth it. If it was your father, mother, daughter, son, family it should be there so they can access their community which is their right. I challenge any person to tell our daughter and the countless other children, young adults and adults they are not worth enough to be able to use the bathroom like anyone else. We currently have one room, Te Huri that reduces the need of some of our disabled community. We tried to break the wheel and missed some of our community, Changing Places has done the work so everyone that needs a facility is thought of and their needs are met. **We ask that this part with required numbers of attendance be removed so the number of users isn't the importance, peoples right to toileting is irrespective of this.**
5. As funding and space becomes available and based on evidenced needs, consideration will be given to the provision of one specialist change facility in Picton: This would be awesome to see, as with us and others travelling to or past Picton there is no where to change at all, with Tuia 250 we door knocked everywhere and only Mikey's Bar and Grill made space for a change table so our girl and others didn't miss the once in a lifetime opportunity and were able to be a part of their community like everyone else was able to be. **We ask this is a high priority and that there is no need for evidenced need as we and other would be users are stating there is a need, we and those that live and travel through have nothing in Picton.**

Thank you for taking the time to read our feedback and look forward to amendments to the policy so it encompasses everyone's needs, having that the standard be a Changing Places Facility in the policy would mean we are aiming for the gold standard with the best advice for lived in experience we can get as a community.

Feedback can be made in writing and sent to:

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Feedback can also be emailed to [linda.craighead@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:linda.craighead@marlborough.govt.nz).

The closing date for receiving suggestions and feedback is 3 April 2020.