

disability connect.

helping families

13/07/2020

To whom it may concern

RE: Changing Places NZ Support

As an organisation providing information advice and support to disabled people and their families, we are very aware there is a section of our society whose basic needs are not regularly met.

We are pleased that the needs of the most profoundly disabled people and their families for a network of purpose-built public bathroom facilities in the community are inching towards a long term and viable solution. I have personally met members of Disability Connect who live with the indignity of toileting their young or adult children in the family vehicle when travelling outside their communities because there is no suitable option available. As an organisation supporting these families, we are delighted about the progress being made. However we do have concerns that less than optimal alternatives are being considered which do not offer the same choices that could have long term risks for families of disabled people with high and complex needs.

Changing Places NZ has set the bar for these highly functional facilities - including influencing standards internationally - and our organisation fully endorses its plans for a nationwide network. Their standards for space, equipment and design are second to none and the membership system offers ease of access and ownership, empowering our families in a way that is unprecedented. Instead of offering the usual minimum to our disabled community, this is an opportunity to offer the best.

Please contact us - or Changing Places NZ directly - if you would like to discuss this issue further before any decisions are made without crucial thorough consultation with the very communities you wish to serve.

Kind regards,



Mike Potter
CEO
Disability Connect