



Changing Places

Commonwealth Funding Offer – Tranche 3 Funding Round

Background

The Commonwealth Government is investing \$32.2 million from 2022-23 to 2025-26 to build Changing Places facilities in Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Australia.

The Commonwealth has committed to contribute up to half of the total build cost for any fixed place or portable facility agreed to under this funding offer. The Australian Government Department of Social Services (the department) is responsible for the implementation, which will be undertaken in partnership with state and territory governments.

Changing Places are facilities for people with high support needs who are not adequately supported by standard accessible toilets. Changing Places facilities are larger than standard accessible toilets. They have extra features and more space to meet the needs of people with disability and their carers.

What is the timeline for implementation?

The Government's funding commitment is being implemented in four Tranches of delivery: Tranche 1 (2022-2023), Tranche 2 (2023-2024), Tranche 3 (2024-2025), and Tranche 4 (2025-2026).

Tranches 1 and 2 of Changing Places have now closed, with the Commonwealth partnering with the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia for 38 Changing Places facilities.

Work on Tranche 3 is currently underway and will run in the 2024-25 financial year.

The department will be undertaking two rounds of funding in Tranche 3: a preliminary FFA round, set to be finalised before the end of 2024, and the mainstream FFA round, which will result in payment prior to the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

This factsheet contains information about the mainstream Tranche 3 funding round.

The department continues to meet regularly with all states and territories to enter into agreements with jurisdictions that will be ready to partner in the current financial year. This

is also an opportunity to integrate Changing Places facilities with planned or existing infrastructure projects at the state and territory level.

States and territories who are interested in Tranche 3 are required to finalise and secure relevant signatures for funding agreements with the Commonwealth before 30 June 2025.

Building is required to commence within 12 months of receiving funding and be completed within 18 months of build commencement.

How will funding be delivered to the states and territories?

As with previous Tranches, Tranche 3 will be delivered through Federation Funding Agreements (FFAs) between the Commonwealth and states and territories.

Funding recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in the agreement, and must appoint a primary contact for all matters relating to reporting, monitoring and delivery.

Are portable Changing Places eligible for Commonwealth contribution?

Portable Changing Places facilities are eligible for Commonwealth contribution. As portable facility may stay within one LGA or may be shared between LGAs, the Commonwealth are able to provide up to 40% of the build cost of a portable Changing Places facility.

Portable facilities must begin building or sub-contracting/purchase within 12 months of receiving funding. Building must be completed within 18 months of building commencement.

For further information on Commonwealth funding for portable Changing Places, please refer to the Changing Places Portable Facilities FAQ.

How much funding will be provided under this initiative?

As of 1 February 2024, the Commonwealth has increased the funding offer from the previous one-third contribution, and made all LGAs eligible for funding, regardless of existing facilities. This is reflective of the Australian Government's commitment to improve accessibility in public spaces for people with disability in Australia, through increasing the availability of Changing Places.

The Commonwealth will provide:

- 50% of the funding towards build costs for Changing Places facilities in LGAs without an existing facility, or
- 40% of the funding towards build costs for all subsequent facilities in any LGA with at least one Changing Places facility.

It is recognised that build cost may vary amongst jurisdictions, and between regional or metropolitan locations. Given this, funding allocation will be based on quoted build cost for each facility, as supported by at least one quote.

Are there any costs associated with the Changing Places that are not eligible for Commonwealth funding under this initiative?

Yes. As per the previous policy requirements, please note the following costs are not eligible for funding:

- Demolition costs
- Changing Places assessor and accreditation costs
- Costs not directly related to the Changing Places facility (e.g. the building costs associated with a larger construction project)

Who will be the funding partners for the remaining funding?

The Commonwealth encourages funding partners to consider collaborative funding contributions. These may include funding via:

- state and territory government grants,
- other Commonwealth grants,
- LGAs,
- local councils, and
- appropriate third-party contributors (for example, tourism locations, shopping precincts, existing builds).

To remain eligible for funding under Commonwealth FFAs, jurisdictions must maintain overarching responsibility for project delivery and reporting.

How long after receiving funding is building expected to commence?

Building must commence within 12 months of receiving funding. Building must be completed within 18 months of building commencement.

Does Commonwealth funding provide for ongoing maintenance or security for Changing Places facilities?

The Commonwealth funding is a contribution towards the costs of building a Changing Places facility. All ongoing operational or maintenance costs are the responsibility of the funding recipient.

Can locations for a Changing Places be chosen by the funding recipient?

The funding recipient, in consultation with the relevant state/territory and other funding partners, can determine the locations of facilities.

Final approval of Commonwealth funding for proposed locations is subject to Commonwealth agreement.

Factors under consideration when approving proposed build locations may include community need and ease of access, proximity to popular local or tourist destinations, proximity to other community facilities, relationship to other nearby accessible infrastructure, and the proximity of other nearby Changing Places facilities.

The Changing Places funding offer is intended to increase community accessibility for people with high support needs across Australia. To encourage the building of Changing Places in LGAs without a facility, the Commonwealth has increased the funding contribution for builds that meet this criterion to 50% of the total facility cost.

Do Changing Places facilities need to be accredited and who provides accreditation?

All Changing Places must be accredited by a [Changing Places assessor](#). Accreditation ensures that Changing Places are built to standard, ensuring users can be confident that design is fit for purpose.

What other requirements will form part of a funding agreement?

- Locations of each facility must be agreed with the department prior to the commencement of building works
- Facilities must meet the [Changing Places Design Specifications 2020](#), which can be downloaded from changingplaces.org.au
- Facilities must be accredited by a Changing Places Assessor
- Once a Changing Places Assessor has assessed a facility and is satisfied it meets the requirements of the Changing Places Design Specification 2020, a Statement of Compliance will be issued. The funding recipient must provide a copy of the Statement of Compliance to DSS
- Recipients must ensure that once the Changing Places facility is accredited, it is listed on the [National Public Toilet Map](#)

We applied or plan to apply for the Tranche 3 preliminary funding round. Are we still eligible for the mainstream funding round?

Yes. If you are seeking funding or have received funding for the Tranche 3 preliminary funding round (to be paid in late 2024), your jurisdiction is still eligible to seek funding in the Tranche 3 mainstream funding round (to be paid in June 2025).

Is there a Changing Places website?

The Changing Places Australia website (changingplaces.org.au) is overseen by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in Victoria. The website is not managed by the Commonwealth. The website contains a list of all accredited and registered Changing Places facilities, the Changing Places Design Specifications 2020, design files, online registration and accreditation processes and news.

The [National Public Toilet Map](#) is another publicly available resource designed to assist people in locating bathrooms and change facilities, including Changing Places.

Who can I contact for more information?

Further information on the Commonwealth Changing Places funding offer can be found on the [DSS Website](#). Alternatively, please feel free to contact us at ChangingPlaces@dss.gov.au.