



Changing Places: Portable Facilities

Frequently Asked Questions

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 each 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 are portable Changing Places facilities?

Portable Changing Places are portable facilities such as Placeable Pods, Marvelloos, or another portable toilet facility that meets Changing Places requirements.

Portable Changing Places offer state, territory and local governments a versatile solution to ensuring people with disability and their carers have access to a Changing Places facility, where it may not be possible or suitable to build a permanent facility. This may include education settings, temporary infrastructure, and other community events.

Can funding be used towards portable Changing Places facilities?

Portable Changing Places facilities are eligible for Commonwealth funding. Portable facilities are eligible for up to 40% towards the build cost of the facility.

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

Yes. As per the policy requirements for permanent facilities, the following costs remain not eligible for funding:

- Changing Places assessor and accreditation costs; and
- Costs not directly related to the construction of the Portable Changing Places facility (e.g. the ongoing maintenance of the facility or costs associated with moving the facility between locations).

How long after receiving funding is building expected to commence?

Building or sub-contracting/purchase of the construction of a portable facility must have commenced within 12 months of receiving funding. Building must be completed within 18 months of building commencement. Portable facilities will be considered completed once they are open for public use.

Do portable Changing Places facilities need to be accredited?

All Changing Places facilities 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.

Are portable Changing Places facilities required to be listed on the National Public Toilet Map?

It is a requirement of accredited permanent facilities that they be listed on the [National Public Toilet Map](#). This is not a requirement for portable facilities whose location will change depending on need.

What is required in a project plan for a portable Changing Places facility?

Funds are released to jurisdictions upon the department's receipt and approval of a project plan for each facility. The department can provide a template for project plans, should jurisdictions wish to utilise these. However, it is not compulsory to use this template, provided that the submitted plan meets all necessary requirements.

For a portable Changing Places facility this must include:

- Location of each facility (i.e. where the portable facility will be located while not being relocated for events, or the location of its first installation);
- Estimated costs of construction or purchase;
- Sub-contract arrangements (i.e. who is being engaged to build and transport the portable facility);
- Timeline, including commencement date (date of ordering), completion date (date the facility is open to the public), and any other relevant implementation milestones (such as delivery date); and
- Engagement details of Changing Places assessors or details outlining how the engaged sub-contractor will meet accreditation requirements.

What progress reporting is required for a portable Changing Places facility?

State/Territory governments are responsible for providing 6 monthly progress reports for each funded Changing Places facility, until such time as the facility is complete. This requirement also applies to the construction of portable Changing Places facilities. Regular reporting is required to include information on:

- Key milestones
- Build progress
- Costings
- Successes/Challenges

State/Territory governments are required to inform the Commonwealth of any issues in writing as soon as practicable. This includes, but is not limited to, delays in meeting agreed milestones such as project plans and progress reporting.

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 the department at ChangingPlaces@dss.gov.au.