



# Changing Places

## Commonwealth Funding Offer

### Background

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

As of 1 February 2024, the Commonwealth has increased the funding offer from the previous 'one-third', 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 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 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 helped in full 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: 2022-2023; 2023-2024; 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

Tranche 1 of Changing Places has now closed. Tranche 2 is now open and will run for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Discussions with states and territories are in progress, with a focus on 'build ready' and bespoke opportunities for funding agreements in the second Tranche (2023-2024 FY), including facilities integrated with upcoming infrastructure projects at the state and territory level. States and territories who are interested in Tranche 2 will need to be in a position to finalise funding agreements with the Commonwealth before 30 June 2024. Building will need to commence within 12 months of receiving funding, and completed within 18 months of commencement.

Future Tranches will provide an opportunity for funding partners not currently in a position to proceed this financial year. This will include consideration of more complex and bespoke build scenarios.

## How will funding be delivered to the states and territories?

For Changing Places facilities being co-funded with states and territories, funding will be delivered through Federation Funding Agreements (FFAs) between the Commonwealth and states and territories.

Funding recipients must follow project monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in the relevant funding agreements. A primary contact for all matters relating to reporting, monitoring and delivery must also be appointed.

## 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, 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
- 40% of the funding towards build costs for all subsequent facilities in any LGA with at least one Changing Places

It is recognised that build cost may vary amongst jurisdictions, and between regional or metropolitan locations. Given this, funding allocation will be based on:

- estimated average cost of facilities, as determined by each state and territory or other funding partners, and
- evidence that average cost has been independently sourced from and endorsed by accredited builders or assessors of Changing Places facilities.

## Who will be the funding partners for the remaining funding?

The Commonwealth encourages state and territory governments to consider collaborative funding contributions. These may include funding via:

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

## 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. Any and all ongoing operational or maintenance costs are the responsibility of the co-funder to put in place appropriate arrangements.

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

The funding recipient, in consultation with the department, 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 criteria 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 [www.changingplaces.org.au](http://www.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 [Changing Places website](#) and the [National Public Toilet Map](#)

## Is there a Changing Places website?

The Changing Places Australia website ([www.changingplaces.org.au](http://www.changingplaces.org.au)) is overseen by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in Victoria. 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.

## 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](mailto:ChangingPlaces@dss.gov.au).