

# POLICY FUTURES

## *A Reform Agenda*



### We Need to Talk About Public Toilets: Policy agendas for inclusive suburbs/cities

Providing safe, accessible and inclusive public toilets is critical to ensure community participation in Australian suburbs and cities.

Toilet planning and provision should be guided by city-wide strategies, user-responsive design principles and clear roles and responsibilities relating to toilet provision and maintenance. This approach supports individual and collective health and economic outcomes while delivering inclusive public spaces and ensuring user dignity.

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### Key Policy Recommendations

1

**The adoption of national public toilet principles.** Provide national leadership on the endorsement and promotion of these principles to prioritise the planning, design and maintenance of public toilets in public spaces across cities and suburbs in Australia. This will engage planners, architects, designers and public health professionals as well as chambers of commerce and businesses through articulating the value and benefits of access to public toilets.

- |                              |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Public life and city      | 5. Accessibility             | 9. Ease of maintenance |
| 2. Public health and hygiene | 6. Inclusion                 | 10. Sustainable        |
| 3. Safety and privacy        | 7. Location and availability | 11. Communication      |
| 4. Functionality             | 8. Attractiveness            | 12. Consultation       |

2

**Define the roles and responsibilities for the planning and provision of public toilets.**

Coordinate a national working group with representation from all states and territories to improve the planning and provision of public toilets, which bring together an understanding of the stakeholders involved in the provision and maintenance of public toilets. Embed best practice design principles for public toilets in public health legislation, including articulating clear roles and responsibilities to assess local needs across local government areas, open space and transport networks, which includes:

- All federally funded infrastructure projects, that will be used by members of the public, to include a public toilets needs assessment;
- Acknowledgement that safe access to toilets is a right and supports inclusion and dignity;
- An audit of the existing provision of toilets that can be accessed by the public, regardless of ownership or management;
- Community engagement to determine local needs; and
- Collaborative responses to the provision and maintenance of public toilets.

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