

5 April 2019

Ms Liz Reid
President and Director (NT)
Mr Simon Burchill
Manager
Physical Disability Australia
PO Box 345
TOOWONG QLD 4066

By email: manager@pda.org.au

Our Ref: 2019/177462

Dear Ms Reid and Mr Burchill

Subject: Accessible Toilets

Thank you for your letter to the Mayor and CEO of Northern Beaches Council regarding the use of MLAK locking systems in accessible public amenities.

Northern Beaches Council is committed to providing people with a disability equal access to public facilities. The objective is to ensure that access to these public amenities is consistently available to those that require them.

Council's standard amenity design incorporates accessible toilets that are open to the public consistent with the opening hours of the whole amenity. In a large percentage of our amenities this is controlled by Council's automated locking system (eState) and in other cases the toilets are manually opened and closed by our cleaners. MLAK locks are provided on the accessible toilets to enable 24-hour access to people with a disability that have obtained an MLAK key.

In some cases, our accessible toilets are only available via an MLAK key. This is as a result of older design facilities that cannot be opened and closed independently from the MLAK locking system or in a small number of facilities that are equipped with expensive hoists and change tables.

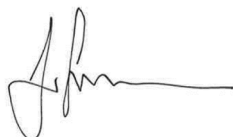
Northern Beaches Council commitment is consistent with the guiding principles of access, as noted in the letter from the Minister for Disability, namely:

- Accessible toilets should be unlocked during daylight hours
- Accessible toilets should be unlocked when co-located with general entry toilets
- The MLAK system is an option to reduce the difficulty faced by people with a disability in finding an accessible toilet that is open afterhours

As stated in our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), Council will continue to “improve accessibility of Council owned and managed buildings and facilities”.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact Council’s Executive Manager, Property - Campbell Pfeiffer on 9942 2608.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorde Frangoples', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jorde Frangoples
Director, Transport & Assets