

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Tuesday, 25 October 2016

## **Changing Places facility is accessible and inclusive**

Bunbury will join a network of highly accessible and inclusive public toilet facilities after being awarded a Changing Places grant to construct secure, clean facilities for people with disability who need space and help to use the bathroom when out and about.

Changing Places include a hoist, adult changing table, automatic door and space for two people to help the user with their needs.

The facility, to be built at Koombana Bay as part of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project, will include 24-hour, seven-day access. Use of the facility will be free.

Bunbury's Changing Place is one of many such facilities being established around the State and is funded by the State Government.

Acting Mayor and Community Access Committee chairman Brendan Kelly said the Changing Places facility aligned perfectly with the City's MARCIA (Most Accessible Regional City In Australia) aspirations.

"The Changing Place will mean that people with a disability can have access to a clean, purpose-built facility that helps them to enjoy the freedom to participate and engage in community life," Cr Kelly said.

"The facility will create opportunities for people with disabilities, their families and carers to venture out of home for longer periods of time and enjoy and participate in everyday activities.

"The location of the Changing Place at the Koombana foreshore will benefit the Bunbury community and visitors alike."

Cr Kelly said the addition of facilities such as Changing Places boosted Bunbury's ambition to become the Most Accessible Regional City In Australia by 2020.

"The community has really embraced the MARCIA concept and we are seeing positive change in terms of accessibility and inclusion throughout our City," he said.

"Our industry engagement scholarship, which is a partnership between the City of Bunbury and Edith Cowan University, will provide high quality data and identify directions that will give the City a considerable advantage in gaining MARCIA status."

Scholarship recipient Adam Johnson is looking at the role of local governments and how they can work in partnership with the whole community to achieve greater access and inclusion.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

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MARCIA was the brainchild of the Community Access Committee which in 2014 held a workshop to devise ways to engender a more inclusive and accepting community beyond simply improving physical access.

Key criteria identified include access to public spaces, accessible public spaces, access technology, access and disability aware community, uniform guidelines and inclusion initiatives.

**ENDS**

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