

I write this to illustrate how much planning has to be done when the disabled want to travel even in our own state, Modern term is now 'Accessible', which covers many legal type issues, so I presume the problems will increase. Minor problems still need to be faced in disabled facilities. A relation with FSHD booked into a Motel, advertised as suitable for disabled, along this route. Upon arrival he found his power chair could not climb the 4 inch step into the unit.

We have returned from a month long 3200 km road trip, travelling from Bundaberg to Cooktown and return using our Camper Trailer and Toyota FJ Cruiser. This is our third trip to the Northern area over the last few years. Planning the trip, we obtained as much information as possible on Motels and Camping Areas along the route. We used the Spinal Injuries Motel reference, RACQ Tourist Park Guide and Top Tourist Park Guide for reference and to obtain information on Accessible/Disable Facilities. Some places like Bororen had disabled facilities without any signs in place.

A summation of the trip.....

Bundaberg left early.

Midday. The Red Rooster at North Rockhampton facilities Limited service station facilities.

Evening. Mackay Andergrove Caravan Top Tourist Park Blue Wheelchair symbol. Mackay also has several motels with 'disabled with assistance'.

We did not investigate what that meant.

Noticed at Bowen, Available Caravan Park camping disability facilities. The same Bowen Park has cabins advertised for the disabled, however they have steps, so not suitable for wheelchairs.

Midday second day. A comfort stop at Home Hill, Council advertised Facilities in the Town Area.

Townsville. No advertised disabled Caravan Parks at Townsville.

Evening second day. Cardwell, excellent public facilities right on the beach. The Top Tourist Caravan Park had facilities and a cabin with ramp access.

Overnight tour. Cooktown. The Seaview Motel was the first we tried, it had a disabled type room, which was excellent for our visit. The motel did not advertise any disabled facility on the web site..

A novice would certainly find the trip daunting as planning and gathering information can be quite a chore. There is a need to have an easier system to help the disabled tackle the task of travel. I note the Blue Symbol is registered and can only be used adjacent or on the actual item and so can be difficult for a person to find when driving in the area. The Blue Wheelchair Symbol is world wide acceptable and one can get legal redress if it is not up to standard. So now we have Motels with accessible/disable 'with assistance' to cover their concerns. There seems to be less and less Caravan parks and Motels displaying any symbols to advertise any disabled facility.

May I suggest a Public Domain Green Wheelchair Symbol be used to show the Area is Walker Wheelchair Friendly? Any symbol would be acceptable.

Thanking you for your time to consider this matter

I remain

Yours Sincerely

Margaret and Leigh Evans

Coral Coast Muscular Dystrophy Network.