

The Committee Secretary

Submission No 127

Mr Anthony Samuels

RECEIVED<sup>sm</sup>  
30 MAR 2009  
BY: LACA

Dear Sir, Madam,

I read with abated Interest the draft 2009, Disability Access standards re: buildings.

No where within this document was there any reference to the HEIGHT of which "Toilet Suites" should be installed.

Please see my Submission which I enclose.

Many Many thanks for allowing me this opportunity to address my very deep concerns.

Regards,

MR Anthony JAMUEHS

Attention: The Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on legal and  
Constitutional affairs  
PO Box 6021  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Dear Sir | Madam,

RE: My Submission - Disability (Access to premises  
Building) standards 2009.

Firstly and foremost, I wish to acknowledge,  
applaud and commend the efforts by  
all concerned in relation to the above mentioned,  
in bringing about change in order to  
improve "quality of life" for all those  
experiencing challenges in their day to day  
lives as a result of their disability.

With this in mind, I wish to share with  
you my extreme concerns I have in  
relation to accessing a very basic service  
within any public building or facility.

My brief background: I was born with a  
rare form of Muscular Dystrophy - "Bethlem Myopathy",  
and as with any disease with age, I have  
now experienced problems within the community  
and as a result, I have become a PRISONER  
in my own home.

What is my problem? I cannot now leave  
my home as I have lost my security  
should I have the need to access a toilet.

Yes! it is as basic as a TOILET!

Should I need to Sit on the Toilet, because of my disability I am unable to propel myself up in order to get off. Even if I am within a "Disabled Toilet" the railing on the wall are of No benefit as I have severe wasting of the muscle's in my wrists so I'm unable to hold onto the rails and pull myself up.

What I would like to see as standard nationally and would solve my problem and others sharing the same difficulty is...

Very simply install higher Toilet Suites

My "Toilet Suite" at home is a CAROMA - PIN 614400W and sits on 4 cm's of concrete making the over-all height from floor to top of seat 47 cm's.

Simply having a higher "Toilet Suite" allows me the dignity of maintaining my own toilet needs.

Whom would be dis-advantaged by installing higher "Toilet-Suites" within ALL public toilets.

Simple answer: Absolutely No-one.

Having higher toilets will have no impact onabled body person's what-so-ever however, improve the quality of life for person's such as myself.

There appears to be an attitude from my own perspective that by installing hand rails within "Disabled Toilets" that all has been addressed.

\* People such as myself fall through the cracks as we are not yet in a wheel-chair however as disabled as the person in the wheel-chair.

Being a person whom is totally comfortable with his disability and being totally realistic, I am fully aware and accepting of the fact that should I live long enough, I will be spending my awake hours in a wheel-chair.

So, it is very important to me, to try despite the pain doing everything in my power to keep out of that wheel-chair.

What is worrying me is, because I can no longer get out of any community toilet even the designated disabled one's I cannot any longer leave home, which is going to impact on my emotional well-being more than my physical.

What I would like this enquiry to look at?

Seeing if it would be possible to include within the new standards nationally that any new installation of a "Toilet Suite" to be of the one I outlined earlier "AROMA" Care Pan P/N 614400W and with current suites exempt unless for many reasons it needs replacing.

It is amazing that when we look at how to improve one's "quality of life" you cannot get as basic as a "Toilet Suite". We are not talking about moving a mountain or big dollars. A simple "Toilet Suite".

I would like to see the end of low Toilet Suites as not only person's with mobility limitation's have difficulties getting off a low toilet seat, a large no of our SENIOR (Elderly) population also have lost the muscle strength in the tops of their legs which allow us to lift off a seat, chair etc.

So, In closing, as I stated earlier, my proposal can only improve the "quality of life" for people such as myself with mobility limitations and the elderly however makes no difference what so ever to any one else using the "Toilet Suite".

This would allow me to retain my Independence, pride, dignity, self-respect but most importantly allow me to be part of Society again.

Thankyou for hearing my viewpoint. I wish all involved all the best and I only hope that my proposal be looked at or installed when looking at changes to the current standards.

Please acknowledge my letter - Many thanks,

(MR. A. SAMMERS) 26/3/2009,