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SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE DRAFT DISABILITY (ACCESS TO PREMISES - BUILDINGS) STANDARDS

We think the Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards are inadequate because they fail to include requirements that would make buildings accessible to people with chemical sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). We think that people with chemical sensitivities/MCS should have the same right to access buildings as other people with disabilities.

Many people with MCS receive the Disability Support Pension so there is no doubt that they are disabled. Recent research has shown MCS to have a genetic component (eg McKeown-Eyssen GE, Baines CJ, Cole DEC, Tyndale R, Grant D, Riley N, Jazmaji V, Marshall L. Case-control study of genotypes in multiple chemical sensitivity CYP2D6, NAT1, NAT2, PON1, PON2 and MTHFR. *Int J Epidemiol* 33:1-8, 2004.) There is no valid reason for ignoring this disability.

People with MCS are extremely disadvantaged. Our members report having difficulty or being completely unable to access public toilets, hospitals and medical clinics, schools and tertiary education facilities, workplaces, aged care facilities, childcare centres, shopping centres, libraries, cinemas, restaurants, rental housing, holiday accommodation and sporting facilities. We would particularly like to be able to access:

- public toilets
- hospitals and other health care services
- aged care and respite care

We suggest that the recommendations of the *Indoor Environmental Quality Final Report*, or equivalent be adopted, particularly the recommendations for 'Design & Construction' and 'Building Products & Materials'. (These are available at <http://ieq.nibs.org/index.php> or as a pdf file at http://ieq.nibs.org/ieq_project.pdf)

Catherine McIver
President

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