

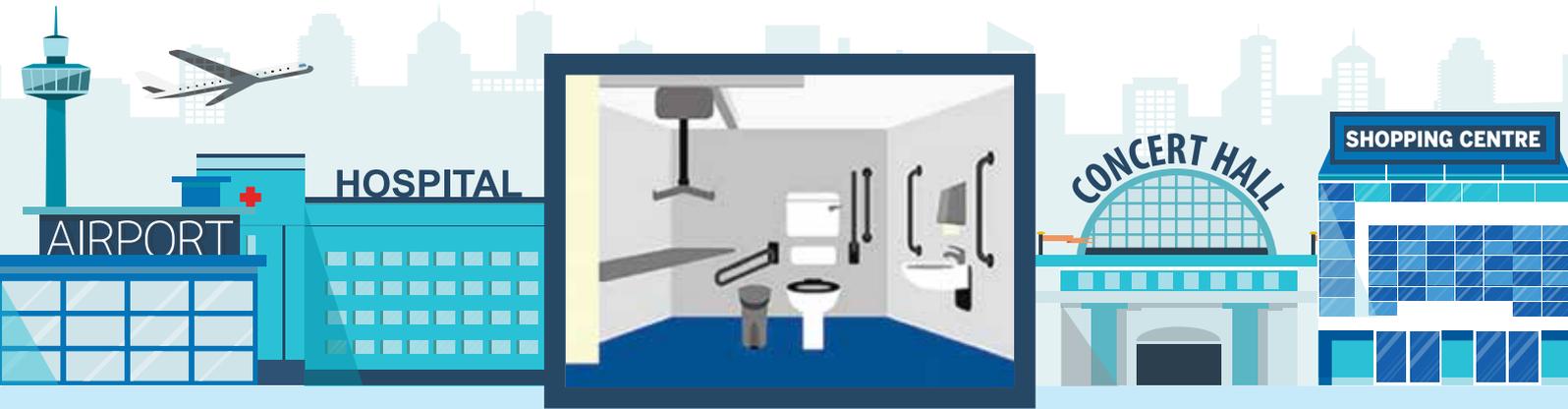
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



Houses of the
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(Disability) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2019

In-line with Ireland's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) the objectives of the Bill are:



1. To require relevant publicly accessible buildings to provide a **'changing places'** facility (referred to in the Bill as **'accessible change facility'**),



2. To require local authorities and others to build **'inclusive'** playgrounds applying the **principles of universal design**,



3. To require **private** bus operators **licensed by the state** to meet the accessibility standards of public buses,



4. To ensure that **personal advocates** supporting people with disabilities to access social services have **statutory powers**.

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1.

To require relevant publicly accessible buildings to provide a **'changing places'** facility (referred to in the Bill as **'accessible change facility'**),



Sadly, many people with disabilities have to go through the indignity and unhygienic experience of being changed on the floor of a public toilet as the correct facilities are not available in public places.

The Bill requires that 'changing places' be provided for within prescribed new-builds, material alterations or change of use, e.g.,

- Shopping Centre
- Large Shop
- Hospital
- Concert Hall
- Theatre
- Swimming Pool
- Motorway Service Station
- Large Sports Hall
- Airport, Rail, Bus and Ferry Passenger Terminal

Changing Places facilities provide 12m² of floor space, and include both a full room coverage ceiling track hoist, a peninsular toilet bowl with space either side for transfers or assistants, and a height-adjustable adult sized changing bench.

Quote from Ann & Ailis

"Changing Places allows us to do all the normal things Ailis likes to do, that people take for granted – days out, shopping, visit the park, get lunch and see a movie – without having to rush home. However, Changing Places are still few and far between and until they are available as a matter of course Ailis's choices will be limited."



2.

To require local authorities and others to build **'inclusive'** playgrounds applying the **principles of universal design**,



For a playground to be "inclusive" it must be designed using the principles of universal design¹ where children of all abilities can play together and the play equipment is developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities. **"Side by side play"**.

Example: South Beach Playground in Greystones incorporates a musical play area, an ability swing, a sensory path, a toddler play area, a wheelchair-accessible sand factory, zip lines and a large activity set.

¹ The Centre of Excellence in Universal Design (National Disability Authority 2007)

Quote from Lynn & Daisy

"I'm so excited and grateful that both my children – one able-bodied and another medically complex wheelchair dependent – can finally be kids together in the same area. Some new state of the art playgrounds are unfortunately designed to exclude Daisy and all wheelchair users from even entering the gates. All kids deserve the right to fun"



3.

To require **private bus operators licenced by the state** to meet the accessibility standards of public buses,

- Currently the NTA can give a licence to a private bus operator on a public route yet they are not required to meet the accessibility standards of public bus operators.
- This Bill will require the NTA to include a mandatory requirement that a provider of a public bus passenger service shall either maintain or enhance, but may not diminish, the accessibility of service on the bus route it will be licensed to operate on.

Quote from Vicky Matthew

"Having accessible transport is priceless. For wheelchair users like myself being able to use accessible public transport is a lifeline, it allows me the independence to travel on my own without an accessible service I would have not been able to take my place in college."



4.

To ensure that **personal advocates** supporting people with disabilities to access social services have **statutory powers**.

- This section requires the appointment of a director to the personal advocacy service for people with disabilities.
- This supports people with disabilities to access necessary social services to enhance their full participation.

This was provided for in Citizens Information Act (2007) but has not been enacted.



NATIONAL ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES