

Provide accessible, gender-neutral toilets

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Address immediate environmental, physical and social needs' from the Guide: [LGBTIQA+ students](#)

Includes:

Understand threats to wellbeing

Ask students about their experiences

Invest in inclusive signage options

Build code-compliant toilets

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Address immediate environmental, physical and social needs](#)

Suggestion: [Provide accessible, gender-neutral toilets](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtika-students/provide-accessible-gender-neutral-toilets

Understand threats to wellbeing

Design toilets with physical and emotional safety in mind.

Many LGBTIQ+ students:

- have experienced verbal slurs relating to gender identity
- are worried about threats of physical harm or harassment
- feel uncomfortable getting changed in front of others
- are unable to access a space aligned to their gender identity
- “hold on” or have to travel longer distances to get to assigned safe spaces
- need to change in spaces with peers who have caused harassment.

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Ask students about their experiences

Consider the impact of student experiences on learning. Ask them how you can help.

When I was about nine I had an incident at school where another girl said,

“Aren’t you in the wrong toilets?”

So I stopped using toilets in public altogether.

It was such an awkward experience and I didn’t want to repeat it so I just stopped drinking water and went to the toilet at home.

14-year-old trans student

Source: [ABC News 4 April, 2017. For some transgender students, the school bathroom is a battleground](#)

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<https://medium.com/abc-news-australia/for-some-transgender-students-the-school-bathroom-is-a-battleground-1e219a1ef040>

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Invest in inclusive signage options



Source: GenderNeutral.co.nz

Source:

GenderNeutral.co.nz

<http://genderneutral.co.nz>

[View full image \(21 KB\)](#)

Review toilet facility options to ensure students have choices of appropriate spaces.

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Build code-compliant toilets

Gender-neutral toilets must comply with the New Zealand Building Code, which states that:

- ▲ each facility must be in a self-contained unit with full-height doors and walls to maintain privacy
- ▲ each facility must contain a toilet, basin, and sanitary item disposal area (where required)
- ▲ each facility must be located so that access is not through an area restricted to one sex.

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Useful resources

Toilet Reference Designs for School Buildings in New Zealand: Toilets

Publisher: Ministry of Education New Zealand

[Visit website](#)



Compliance document for New Zealand building code clause G1 personal hygiene – second edition

Read time: 46 min

Publisher: Department of Building and Housing

[Download PDF](#)

School installs toilet for transgender pupil, aged 6

Publisher: New Zealand Herald

[Visit website](#)

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