

Conversion of Original Bungalow En-Suite into an Accessible Bathroom

The project was to prepare a house for a wheelchair bound elderly owner to return home.

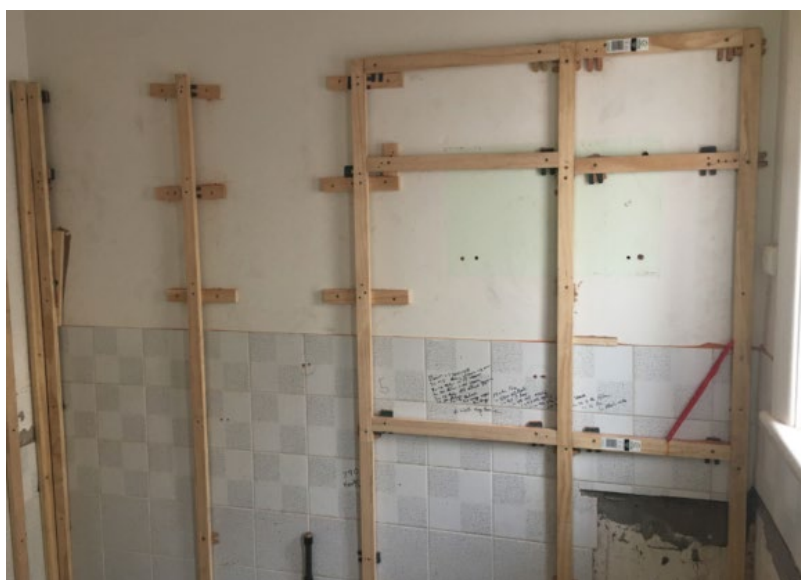
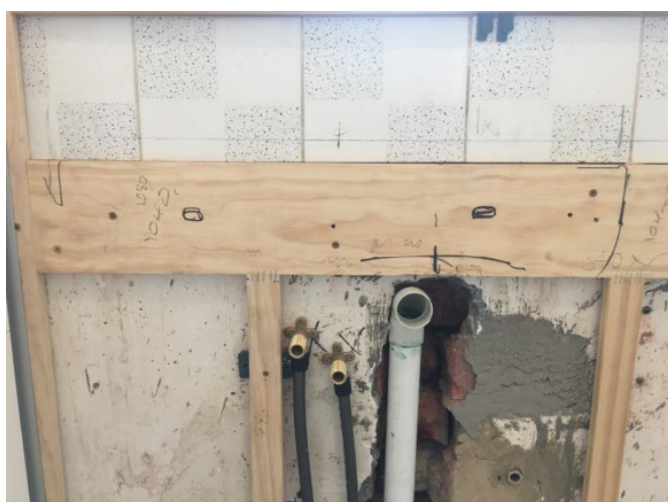
The works included updates to the bedroom, the en-suite, multiple doorways and adding ramps. The work needed to be completed within two-weeks of commencement, to be handed back on Christmas Eve! Due to the typical end of year work load the Builder could only spare one carpenter and one plumber.

The en-suite is 2.50 x 2.75 m, with existing tiling that was more than 40 years old.

To reduce the works schedule meant minimising demolition and the amount of wall chasing for plumbing. All floor tiles removed to create zero threshold entrance and some wall tiles removed because they were either unstable or bulging significantly.



Tiling was too uneven and unstable to have the Fibro panel fixed directly with adhesive over the existing tiles. Instead, the wall was battened out and aligned using packers. The Fibro distributor assisted by surveying the room and preparing a framing plan with take-off. battens set at 600 centres to be in line with panel widths. Panels are fixed with a screw through the groove, a modern form of secret nails.



Once the frame was set, this space was very straight forward; in this case straight forward means no nib walls, no alcove, minimal cut outs (GPOs, pipes) and only one window and door. Typically, in this sort of space a reasonable carpenter can install 15 panels per day (c. 20 – 22 sqm). More panels per day if the installer is familiar with Fibro or where there are long straight walls. Regarding experience, we attend all jobs where the installer is using Fibro for the first time to make sure they get off to a good start.

Outline works schedule using an experienced (50 yo) chippy, vinyl layer and plumber:

- 1.5 man-days to remove existing fixings and dodgy tiles and then to rough in plumbing.
- 1.5 man-days to batten out the room. requiring a great deal of packing.
- 4 elapsed days to screed floor and lay vinyl.
- 1.5 man-days to complete panel installation, which was slightly delayed due to changes to plumbing rough-in during these works.
- 2 man-days to caulk and fit off the room.
- The Chippy was a during this time.

Floor was screeded with vinyl finish. Needed to remove door threshold for easy wheelchair access. Panels laid over the vinyl.

Client was very happy, particularly as her husband was able to come home from the nursing home before Christmas.

