

## Media Coverage

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## The Mosman Daily

### Woman's bravery raises important issue

IT takes a brave person to openly discuss a debilitating condition with others and an even braver one to speak to a newspaper.

This week Michele Morcos has done just that in talking to the *Daily* about her struggle with Crohn's disease.

The fact she has to explain her illness in detail to gain urgent access to toilets not only embarrasses her but reveals a lack of tolerance by shopkeepers, petrol stations and the like.

It is understandable that some shops are concerned that non-paying customers will make a mess of their facilities, however, once the disease is explained one would assume the store owner would help but this is not always the case.

Many store owners have not heard about the

'can't wait' card and the only way for people to gain a greater understanding is through a public awareness campaign.

People like Ms Morcos are now driving this and hopefully more businesses will begin to understand the level of embarrassment and discomfort felt by those who suffer from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

The fact figures from a survey in 2008 that show nothing has changed reiterate the need for greater awareness.

We thank Ms Morcos for speaking with us about what she terms an "embarrassing" condition and hope that her story will drive a message home to retail outlets about the plight of those who suffer from this condition.

**Nicole Rogowski, editor**