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Physical Disability Australia - Bulletin May 2011

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National News

National Disability Strategy Launched

The National Disability Strategy was officially launched in Melbourne on Friday 18 March by Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Jan McLucas, together with Dr Rhonda Galbally, Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council, Mr Simon McKeon, Australian of the Year and Professor Ron McCallum AO, Senior Australian of the Year.

To read more: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/employers/Documents/disAbility_e-news/2011/issue168.html

Asthma Snapshot

From 1 March 2011, aihw.gov.au will showcase topics on the health and welfare of Australians in a new 'snapshot' format. The snapshots will summarise the issues of each topic for web viewing, enabling visitors to easily read and download concise, up to date and relevant information. The first of these snapshots is asthma. [Aihw.gov.au](http://aihw.gov.au)'s new layout and functionality will also be launched on 1 March

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737418390>

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Universal Housing Design

Source: disability e-news, FaHCSIA

Encouraging Australians to construct new homes that are more accessible took an important step forward this month.

The National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design, a group bringing together government, the residential building industry and the community sector, met to progress the *Liveable Housing Design* guidelines.

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/employers/Documents/disAbility_e-news/2011/issue169.htm

Searching for Accessible Homes

By Kristy Hyland, Divine website

March 23, 2011

I recently moved house. Finding an accessible house to rent was difficult. It showed how few accessible houses there are in Australia

<http://www.divine.vic.gov.au/main-site/lifestyle/home-garden/searching-for-accessible-homes;storyId.4024>

Guidelines on application of the Premises Standards

Source: Australian Human Rights Commission

March 29, 2011

The Disability (Access to Premises – buildings) Standards 2010 (the Premises Standards) commence on 1 May 2011. Any application for a building approval for a new building or upgrade of an existing building on or after that date will trigger the application of the Premises Standards.

The Australian Human Rights Commission has issued Guidelines on the application of the Premises Standards to assist in their implementation.

To read the full article and download the Guidelines:

<http://www.ahrcblog.com/2011/03/29/guidelines-on-application-of-the-premises-standards/>

It will cost but a National Disability Insurance Scheme draws closer

Source: ABC online, April 21, 2011

By Louise Merrillees

The debate over the scheme moves to WA this week as Disability Services Ministers meet in Perth and the Productivity Commission holds a public hearing to find out what the 400,000 Western Australians with a disability want.

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To read the latest on the NDIS, the cost and the complexities:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/04/20/3197010.htm>

Why politicians think they're on a winner with welfare

Source: The Age, April 17, 2011
By Michael Bachelard

JULIA Gillard has been sending smoke signals since February that the May budget will be tough on welfare recipients.

She wants to see 2 million more people - disability pensioners, the unemployed, single parents - setting the alarm clock early and participating in "the dignity of work" rather than indulging in "idleness".

To read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/why-politicians-think-theyre-on-a-winner-with-welfare-20110416-1divg.html>

Disability; a taxing dilemma

By Stewart MacLennan, ABC Disability - Ramp Up
March 24, 2011

The first sentence of the Australian Productivity Commission's recently released Draft Report on Disability Care and Support says it all.

"The current disability support system is underfunded, unfair, fragmented, and inefficient".

It's what those of us who have to live with a disability in Australia have known and been saying for years.

Read further at: <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/03/24/3172312.htm>

Disabled Workers take on Federal Government

By Kellee Nolan, The Sydney Morning Herald
April 5, 2011

Two men with intellectual disabilities are taking on the federal government in court, hoping to win a pay rise for 20,000 disabled workers across Australia.

Michael Nojin, 44, who has cerebral palsy, epilepsy, impaired motor skills and an intellectual disability, has done office jobs such as removing staples, shredding documents and sweeping floors for \$1.79 an hour.

To read more: <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/disabled-workers-take-on-federal-govt-20110405-1d2gg.html>

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Public service seeks workers with disabilities

Source: ABC online, April 20, 2011

The ACT Government is moving to attract more people with disabilities to the public service. As part of its new ACT Public Service Employment Strategy, the Government wants to double the number of public servants with disabilities to almost 700 over the next four years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/04/20/3196803.htm>

Centrelink to review appeals process

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald AAP – March 3, 2011

A hard-hitting Ombudsman's report has found major problems in how Centrelink responds to review requests from clients owing money or whose benefits have been cut.

For the rest of the article go to:

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/centrelink-to-review-appeals-process-20110316-1bw4s.html>

Booklet: 'Help cut Mobility Scooter Accidents'

This booklet by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is available in print and electronic formats from www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/982281 or phoning the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502. The Australian Road Rules state that users of mobility scooters are legally defined as pedestrians if the devices cannot travel faster than 10 km/hour, and the driver suffers a disability or injury. These lower speed devices are legally allowed to be driven on footpaths, shared paths, crossroads, public places and shopping centres. They are allowed to travel on roads in the absence of appropriate pathways

National Code of Practice for Accessible Rail

The Rail Industry Safety and Standard Board RISSB has produced a National Code of Practice for Accessible Rail.

AFDO is looking for feedback to ensure the DDA Transport Standards are not watered down.

Please read through the report at;

PDF version 2,900kb <http://db.tt/7bjWWlj>

Word RTF version 17,500kb <http://db.tt/tAPtu4s>

You'll find the DDA Act, Transport Standards and Guidelines at the link below, scroll down to "Related Links" on the right. <http://tinyurl.com/ybw6qz6>

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Add your voice to the National Debate – 1in4

People with disability have the right to have their voice heard in the ongoing national debate that informs government policy. The 1 in 4 Poll aims to strengthen the voice of people with disability.

The 1-in-4 Poll is a regular national survey that lets people with disability express their views on a range of social issues. The first Poll focuses on Social Inclusion.

The responses of people who complete the Poll will be used to influence government policy and inform future practice and research.

To read more or complete the survey go to: www.1in4pollaustralia.com

Education to Employment website

The Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer (WSNDCO) program is proud to announce the revamp and update of the popular Education to Employment website!

The website provides information, links and resources to assist people with a disability to make a smoother transition from education to employment. There is information about common issues such as disability disclosure in the workplace; how to manage disability at work; what employers need to know about disability; how service providers can best support their clients with disability and much more.

www.uws.edu.au/ndco/employment

\$130 million for disabled in budget

Source: Sunday Mail (SA), April 24, 2011
National political editor Samantha Maiden

FAMILIES caring for disabled children have won access to up to \$30,000 a year in the May Budget.

The \$130 million boost to early intervention will also include new support for autism and deliver on an election pledge to offer a \$6000-a-year Better Start for Disability payment from July.

To read the full story:

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/m-for-disabled-in-budget/comments-e6frea6u-1226043859495>

Wheelchair standards in Taxis questions

At the moment the ME 067 Standards Committee - Mobility Appliances for People with a Disability - are reviewing the AS/NZ 3696 part 19, looking at wheelchairs being used as seats in vehicles. In America they use labels on the wheelchairs to inform people that these chairs have met the standards and are safe to be used in a vehicle. There is also a draft European Standard EN 12183 that requires labelling for chairs not suitable for use in motor vehicles.

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We wanted to know what your thoughts are as consumers and there are two key questions we would like you to answer, any other comments you would like to make would be gratefully received.

Key questions:

1) Would you like to know before you purchase/have provided a wheelchair whether it is suitable to ride in as a seat in a car/taxi?

2) Would a label (12mm x 80mm) indicating whether the chair meets safety standards for such use be OK on all NEW chairs, to help you and those tying down the chair?

Replies can be sent to

Yvonne.Duncan@yooralla.com.au

Education Coordinator, Senior Clinician Physiotherapist
Independent Living Centre | Assistive Technology Learning
Yooralla

705, Princes Hwy | Brooklyn VIC 3012

Tel: 03 9362 6111 | Mob: 0434 317 427

International News

Launch of website allows visitors with Disabilities to Plan Accessible visits to London

By Sandra Rhodda, Access Tourism NZ
March 15, 2011

Visitors to London with specific accessibility needs will soon find it easier to plan and make the most of their stay in the capital using information from a new website – [Inclusive London](#) – launched today. The user-friendly site will feature the accessibility features of hotels, restaurants, pubs, shops, museums and tourist attractions, the 2012 Games venues and more.

To read the full article visit:

<http://www.accesstourismnz.org.nz/2011/03/london-government-backs-launch-of-new-website-which-allows-visitors-with-disabilities-to-plan-accessible-visits-to-london/>

To visit the Inclusive London site: <http://www.inclusivelondon.com/DefaultL.aspx>

An Uphill Struggle? Equity in Higher education for People with Disabilities

Source: Maria Veronica Reina, Published on Education for Global Development

Globally the disabled population continues to be the most disadvantaged and marginalized group within society with limited access to educational opportunities. According to UNESCO's Global Education for All Monitoring Report 2010, "disability is one of the least visible but most potent factors in educational marginalization."

Full text: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/an-uphill-struggle-equity-in-higher-education-for-people-with-disabilities>

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Launch of the first World Disability Report in June at UN Headquarters

Source: United Nations Enable Disability Newsletter

The CRPD has drawn global attention to the situation of persons with disabilities in their societies and mandates States parties to address these issues. A new publication, the first ever World Report on Disability, produced jointly by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, reviews evidence about the global situation of persons with disabilities, and offers directions for policy and practice to address exclusion. The report contains chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. Importantly, the report also includes the first new disability prevalence estimates since the 1970s and makes the case for better data collection.

More information: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/en/index.html .

Health ministry's billion-dollar battle against families

Source: NZ Herald online

Catherine Delahunty has slammed the Ministry of Health for fighting court action by seven families who say they should be paid for looking after their disabled relatives. The Ministry of Health needs to sit down and talk with families who are caring for their disabled relatives rather than dragging them through the courts, the Green Party says.

For the full story: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10720869

State News

Queensland

Red disability parking permit holders gain national access

Source: (FaHCSIA) disability e-news

All Queenslanders with a disability parking permit can now access local disability parking concessions across Australia. This means that Queensland's 100,000 red permit holders, who have reduced mobility, can still access their red disability parking permit parking concessions when they travel interstate.

The Australian Government provided \$3 million to support the introduction of the new Australian Disability Parking Scheme, after extensive consultations with stakeholders, including permit holders, medical associations, peak organisations and state, territory and local government.

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Northern Territory

Mobile Renal Dialysis Bus Launched

Source: Department of Health and Ageing
March 31, 2011

An innovative way to treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who require renal dialysis when returning or visiting remote communities in the Northern Territory has been launched in Alice Springs.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ws-ws011.htm>

Victoria

Kensington Accessibility Research Study

Visionary Design Development is looking for volunteer participants with mobility issues to undertake on-site assessment throughout an inner north/west suburb of Melbourne.

The Universal Mobility Index is a new way of measuring the overall accessibility of all parts of the built environment. Private dwellings, public and commercial buildings along with infrastructure such as footpaths, bus stops and pedestrian crossings, etc are all rated for accessibility. Results will show which parts of the built environment are under-performing. All site assessment is undertaken in survey teams; all team members are persons with a disability.

If you would like to be part of this exciting new accessibility initiative please get in touch via the contact details provided.

Mary Ann Jackson

mob: + 61 (0)409 404 941

Email: majarch@vdd.com.au

<http://www.vdd.com.au>

Volunteers needed for ride quality investigation into adapted vehicles

We are seeking 5 volunteers to participate in a study investigating the ride quality of vehicles which have been adapted for wheelchair users. This study aims to identify which elements of an adapted vehicle make for the best ride quality. This information can then be used when selecting and adapting a vehicle to ensure that wheelchair users have the best ride quality possible when riding in private vehicles. This may lead to future research into ride quality in public vehicles such as buses, trams and trains.

We need volunteers who cannot transfer independently, and therefore travel in wheelchair accessible vehicles for community mobility. We will be testing a wide range of adapted vehicles from different manufacturers. Volunteers who choose to participate will be asked to ride in the vehicle and then provide researchers with a rating related to the smoothness of the ride and the noise level experienced during the ride.

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Volunteers will need to be available for 4 days over a 2 week period. They will also be required to get themselves to La Trobe University's Bundoora campus. Reimbursement for travel costs, such as taxi fares and petrol, incurred by travelling to and from La Trobe University to take part in this study will be arranged.

During these days, volunteers will be asked to ride in a total of 4 vehicles with suitable rest breaks in between rides. Each ride will take 15 minutes around La Trobe University roads. Between rides, volunteers will remain with the research team in undercover areas, or be escorted to one of the university buildings to rest.

A sandwich lunch, fruit and hot and cold drinks will also be provided for volunteers.

To register your interest in participating in this study please follow the link below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ridequalityproject>

Information / Peer Support Department
AQA Victoria Ltd.
E-mail: info@aqavic.org.au

New South Wales

Victory claimed over wheelchair access to taxis

Source: ABC News online
March 30, 2011

A Sydney man has dropped his discrimination case against Transport New South Wales, claiming a victory in his fight for better wheelchair access to taxis.

For the full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/30/3177645.htm>

Shape the future with Accessible Arts NSW

Accessible Arts is starting to develop its strategic plan for 2012-2014, and invites you to complete a survey of 15-20 minutes to participate in its planning process. The questions have been written so that they can be answered by a variety of stakeholders, eg an artist with disability, an audience member or a disability sector employee. Your contributions are valuable to Accessible Arts, which is the peak arts and disability organisation across NSW. Its vision is a society in which people with disability fully experience and participate in the arts and cultural life. Its mission is to promote full inclusion, access and cultural opportunities in the arts for people with disability through advocacy, education and information.

Click on www.surveymonkey.com/s/aartsstrategicplanningsurvey to take the short survey.

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Research participants required

A significant area of work which needs to take place before the NDIS can be implemented is the framework for self-assessment that will enable people with disability to articulate their needs and obtain the resources they require for their support. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a potential framework for the development of assessment tools.

Danielle Cheeseman is an honours student from University of Sydney, who is doing a study on the suitability of a self-assessment tool, which is being developed using the ICF as its framework. Danielle is supervised by Ros Madden, who is perhaps Australia's leading expert on ICF. They are seeking volunteer participants, people with disability to come to the offices of People with Disability Australia and do two interviews. One in April/May and one in June/August. The purpose of these interviews would be to critique the self-assessment tool, providing feedback on how useful and relevant it is in assessing needs.

The flyer for this research is located on the PWD website at www.pwd.org.au/documents/temp/ot-project.pdf

If you are interested in participating in the study, or would like further information, please contact:

Danielle Cheeseman: Email: dche7726@uni.sydney.edu.au

Ros Madden: Phone: 9351 9115 Email: ros.madden@sydney.edu.au

Volunteers paid to participate in Research

Source: Mental Health Association – February 2011 newsletter

The School of Psychology at University of NSW is seeking people with and without Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder who are interested in participating in a research study on emotions and decision-making. If you are interested, call Alexis Whitton on 9385 3526. You will be reimbursed \$15 per hour of participation. The project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel (HREAP) at UNSW.

South Australia

New Housing option for vulnerable people in Adelaide – Senator the Hon Mark Arbib

A new \$2.5 million social housing development officially opened in Brooklyn Park, Adelaide today will provide at least 10 people at risk of homelessness with a roof over their heads. Federal Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness Mark Arbib said the \$5.6 billion Social Housing Initiative was the single largest investment in social housing ever undertaken by an Australian Government.

To read more:

http://www.markarbib.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/new_house_option_10032011.aspx

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Bouncer thought disabled man was drunk

By Jason Om, ABC News online
April 9, 2011

A South Australian man with cerebral palsy says he was refused entry to the Adelaide Casino because the bouncer thought he was drunk.

Mark Thiele was on a night out with friends when he attempted to enter the Casino, but was pushed back by a bouncer.

For the full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/04/09/3186845.htm>

Conferences, forums, programs and grants

Free 2011 IRSA Daily Living Expo at Rosehill

Nearly 100 exhibitors will display a wide range of products and services for people with disabilities and the elderly. These include the latest in assistive technology, mobility solutions, pressure care, employment support, accessible recreation/holiday ideas, modified motor vehicles etc. The free Clinical Education Program will present 20 speakers during the 2 days in four rooms above the exhibition floor. Topics range from power wheelchair controls to kitchen innovations to horticultural therapy to sex lies and assistive technology.

When: Wednesday 18 May, 10am-5pm, and Thursday 19 May, 10am-4pm.

Where: Rosehill Racecourse, James Ruse Drive, Rosehill. Plenty of free parking onsite.

For information about exhibitors and speakers, and to register, see

www.dailylivingexpo.com.au/Home.aspx.

Endeavour Foundation's Big Day Out

Date: Sunday May 15, 2011

Time: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Southbank Cultural Forecourt, South Bank, Brisbane

In celebration of Endeavour Foundation's 60th anniversary, and to say thank you to all the community for the support of people with a disability over the last six decades. This free event will feature entertainment, music, craft markets, activities for kids and food stalls.

For more information visit:

http://www.endeavour.com.au/page/act-give-join/events/Big_Community_Day_Out/

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Camp for Families of People with Epilepsy

Research shows that people with epilepsy and their families often feel isolated, anxious and overprotective, so Epilepsy Action Australia has funded and facilitated residential camps with “adventure therapy” by a specialist camp provider. The camps’ fun activities help children and adults to rebuild confidence, self esteem and trust. Spending time with other families promotes peer support and peer learning, and Epilepsy Nurse Educators provide specialised information.

Where: Camps are usually held over three days, and in various locations across Australia. Next one is on 20-22 May at Berry, NSW.

To register or enquire about a camp, phone 1300 37 45 37 or email epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Forums for May in Victoria and Tasmania

The forums planned to take place during May are:

Thursday 12 May – Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood – 11am. For further info please contact Dianne on 03 9899 2766.

Thursday 12 May – Burnie Arts and Function Centre, 77 – 79 Wilmot Street Burnie – 1.30pm – For further details please contact James on 8341 4300 or email: james.obrien@ndis.org.au

Thursday 19 May – Shire of Yarra Ranges Council Offices, Anderson Street – 11am. Lilydale – For further info please contact Dianne on 03 9899 2766.

Wednesday 25 May – Albury/Wodonga – venue tbc ...

There will be a further round of forums across Victoria and Tasmania following the release of the final Productivity Commission report expected at the end of July.

Welcome Home – Shelter NSW Conference on Housing for an Inclusive society

Date: Wednesday 29 June 2011

Time: 9.15 am to 4.00 pm

Venue: NSW Teachers Federation conference centre, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW

What is the contribution of housing to an inclusive society?

When it comes to social disadvantage, is housing part of the solution or part of the problem?

How can we ensure that everyone in New South Wales can gain access to housing, exercise choice about their housing, and find housing in a condition and in areas that enhance liveability?

These key issues will be discussed by speakers, panellists, and the audience.

Registrations are open until Thursday 23 June. An ‘early bird’ discount applies to registrations received before Thursday 16 June:

<http://www.sheltersnsw.org.au/docs/fly11conference-rego.html>

For more information, please contact Yana Myronenko on Tel: (02) 9267 5733 ext.13

Email: admin@sheltersnsw.org.au

NDCO Hunter Enhancing the Links Seminar and Service Expo

Date: 29 June, 2011

Time: 9am-3.30 pm (conference format - expo starts at 8 am during reg'n)

Venue: Brennan Room, Shortland Union, University of Newcastle (Service Expo set up in adjacent McLarty Room)

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Parking: Lots - it's mid-semester break! Details in future updates

What is it? Enhancing the Links is a FREE Hunter-Central Coast Seminar and Service Expo that provides students and people with a disability, and the staff and services who support them, with information about the pathways, services and support available across our Region. The focus of the day will be on moving to education, training, employment, and post-school programs.

For more information and to register go to

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/ndco/staff-resources/enhancing-the-links.html>

Letters from members: Taxis and mobility scooters

There was much discussion on the Physical Disability yahoo group about wheelchair accessible taxis – from waiting times to mobility scooters. Here are some of the discussions:

The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport have five yearly milestones and by December 2007, wheelchair accessible taxi (Wats) response times were required to be equivalent to the regular taxi service. In NSW approximately 10% of the whole taxi fleet are the Wats (700+ Wats with 500+ Wats in Sydney). The Wat Licence requires the driver/operator to give priority to people with disability and the Wats booking/dispatch service can actually direct the driver to pick up a passenger.

Greg

Re. the rules on scooters in wheelchair taxis:

I emailed Victorian Taxi Directorate Mr. Emilio Savle replied 03 8683 0827 he replied on 31 Jan 2011 at 10:29:35

'All public transport operators including wheelchair accessible taxis required to provide a minimum allocated space with a height dimension of 1300 mm long by 800mm wide with a maximum height clearance into taxi currently being 1400mm. This will increase to 1500mm by January 2013. Scooter users advised to make sure mirrors, baskets, back packs are also kept within the allocated dimensions.

Road Safety Act and Road Rules of Vic require passengers who use scooter to transfer into a conventional passenger set and wear seatbelt.

Passengers using mobility aids are required to have appropriate anchoring points to be secured to vehicle. A taxi driver can refuse to carry a person if not achieved.'

Some scooters do not have anchoring points both back and front - none or only one.

The question of weight has not been raised by me. I didn't think of it until my wheelchair taxi last week said about scooter too heavy for the hoist! Some scooters could weigh up to 120 + kilos I guess - just like some of the bigger wheelchairs - I've seen some w'chairs could be lot more! Persons weight on the scooter/wheelchair could add up. With clothes and gear in basket I'd be 95 kilos + I think my scooter weighs 125 kilos – so 220 kilos is the weight a taxi hoist would have to lift for me into back of taxi . Anyone else know about weight a wheelchair taxi hoist can lift?

Heather

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In regard to transport in mobility scooters on public transport, I understand that the original intent for the use of mobility scooters was for people with an ambulant mobility disability to generally use them to access the local community from home, and that mobility scooters are considered "transport" and they were not intended to be ridden onto public transport such as buses, trains and ferries and especially wheelchair accessible taxis. If they are to be used in wheelchair accessible taxis the person would be required to transfer into a taxi seat as I understand it is considered to be extremely unsafe to be sitting on a scooter in the back of a taxi as they have no anchorage points for wheelchair restraints and the handle bars/controllers are directly in front of the person.

The text from the LifeTec Queensland, that I found on the Internet included:

TAXITRAVEL

"Wheelchair accessible taxis (often called Maxi Taxis) are able to transport manual and power wheelchairs, and scooters. Wheelchair users can travel in their chair if it is suitable for use with a wheelchair restraint system. Scooter users are required to transfer into the taxi seat. Cab drivers can provide assistance with boarding and can ensure that the wheelchair or scooter is properly secured. You will need to inform the operator that an accessible taxi is required."

Greg

Unsubscribe - Please send a reply email with Unsubscribe in the subject heading to communications@pda.org.au and I will do so as soon as possible.

Subscribe - We also encourage any interested parties who would like to receive future bulletins to send an email with subscribe in the subject heading to communications@pda.org.au and the email they wish to subscribe and they will be added to future bulletins.

Thank you and Regards
Joanne Hutchins
Communications Officer
Physical Disability Australia Ltd.
communications@pda.org.au

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