



## Australia's EV future is leaving disabled drivers behind

---

### Physical Disability Australia (PDA)

---

#### For Immediate Distribution

#### Australia's EV future is leaving disabled drivers behind

Physical Disability Australia is calling for urgent action to fix inaccessible charging infrastructure before inequality is further embedded into the nation's transport system.

As petrol prices climb and fuel security becomes more volatile, Australia's move to electric vehicles is accelerating. But for many people with disability, the nation's EV charging network remains inaccessible, unreliable, and unequal.

The recent Austroads' *"Enabling Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging"* report confirms what drivers with disability already know: accessible charging is still not being treated as essential. A "minimum bays" approach may meet basic requirements on paper, but in practice it leaves people with disabilities facing longer waits, fewer options, and greater uncertainty every time they need to recharge.

Physical Disability Australia says that must change.

"If Australia is serious about an electric future, it must be a future that includes everyone," said Suzanne Gearing, CEO of Physical Disability Australia. "Accessible charging cannot be an afterthought. It is essential infrastructure. When disabled drivers are forced to rely on one bay being available, and not misused, that is not equality. It is exclusion by design."

---

Physical Disability Australia is calling on governments, councils, developers, and charging operators to adopt an equity-first approach by making universal design the standard, retrofitting existing sites, and introducing enforceable measures to protect access.

“This is a chance to build the right system from the start,” Ms Gearing said. “We need leadership, urgency, and a commitment to dignity, safety, and equal access. This innovation will, like the curb cut, become a welcome addition to recharging stations, and benefit not just to people with disability, but a significant portion of the community.”

As Australia builds the transport network of the future, accessibility must be built in, not bolted on.

**The following individual is available for interviews:**

- Suzanne Gearing - *Physical Disability Australia* CEO - [0484 187 208](tel:0484187208)

**Contact details:**

Email: [promotion@pda.org.au](mailto:promotion@pda.org.au)

Phone: [0439 202 021](tel:0439202021)

**About us:**

*Physical Disability Australia (PDA)* is a national peak Disability Peoples Organisation (DPO) run by people with physical disability for people with physical disability. *PDA* exists for its members, who fuel our mission to “enable every Australian living with a physical disability to realise their full potential”.

---

**Media contacts:**

Please direct all media inquiries and photo requests to Natasha Nobay (Communications and Engagement Manager) on [1800 732 674](tel:1800732674) or by emailing [promotion@pda.org.au](mailto:promotion@pda.org.au)