

13 December 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs

I wish to submit my reasons for supporting regulation of mobility scooters.

My experiences include the following:

- Being “tooted” at by a user of a mobility scooter to get out of the way when walking along a foot path. On this occasion my wife and I were walking quickly as we were late for an appointment. Yet the person using the mobility scooter believed they had the right to proceed at a speed far faster than walking pace on a footpath in a shopping precinct;
- A person driving a mobility scooter through the space between shops in a shopping complex at high speed where the ambulant shoppers (including children) were moving about quite slowly (less than 2 or 3 kmph).
- A person driving a mobility scooter on highways designed for traffic to travel at 80 kmph.
- Almost being struck from behind by these machines in shopping aisles on a number of occasions.

What I believe should be done:

- Have mobility scooters limited to 4kmph or less on footpaths, shops, shopping precincts and any other place where there are pedestrians.
- Only allow higher speeds away from where pedestrians are or may be present.
- Have users assessed for safe use of these machines including if they should only use these machines under supervision of a carer.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my concerns and suggestions.

Yours faithfully

John McQuiggin