

To Whom This May Concern,

We are writing to you today to voice our concerns about the push from Senator John Williams to limit the speed and weight of powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters to 6km/h and 150kg, respectively.

Our first concern about this proposal are the limitations that this will impose on powered wheelchair users who, often, already face difficulties in accessing the community. These limitations will only further deter powered wheelchair users from getting out and about in the community.

Our second concern is the proposed weight restrictions, which we have heard includes the powered wheelchair and its accessories. This has major implications for the functional capacities of a powered wheelchair. For most powered wheelchairs which are over this proposed 150kg limit, the only option to reduce weight will be to reduce battery size. This means not only will powered wheelchair users not be able to get somewhere as fast, they won't be able to go as far or stay out as long.

Our third concern is that of safety. There are many situations where a person has to run quickly to escape danger, just as there are many situations where a powered wheelchair user has to drive quickly to escape danger. Limiting the speed means limiting users' safety, users' ability to cross roads quickly and safely, and the freedom to go at the same speed as other pedestrians.

Powered wheelchairs are peoples' legs. Therefore, is it not discriminatory to propose speed and weight limits for mobility devices, but not impose these restrictions on other non-mobility device users? If users are only allowed to go 6km/h at all times, so should everyone else.

We would like to include the following analogy to get the message across that these proposals are not the way to deal with accidents involving mobility devices. If a motor vehicle driver causes an accident at 100km/h, does the government then propose that all motor vehicle drivers be restricted to 60km/h? No, instead the individual driver is punished

for dangerous driving. This should apply to users of mobility devices too. Not all users of mobility devices need to be punished simply because of the actions of a few.

Finally, we would like reassurance that these proposed speed and weight restrictions on mobility devices in Australia will not go ahead, and reassurance that the lives of all mobility devices users are not restricted because of the poor behaviour of a few.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Evans, on behalf of:



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