

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

Dear Committee Secretary,

As a wheelchair user I have a number of points to make regarding the enquiry into "The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs"□

However, for now, and the reason for my email, is that I have one question that I hope you can answer.

Since when has a mobility scooter also been known as a motorised wheelchair?
The two are totally different and should be categorised accordingly.

A mobility scooter cannot be occupied whilst travelling in a vehicle where a motorised wheelchair can be.

I know a lot of people who spend their lives in motorised wheelchairs. Apart from sleeping in it a motorised wheelchair is where they spend their day and they have no other choice. In most cases a motorized wheelchair gives them independence. They work, socialise, walk the dog, play with their children, shop and even play sport in their motorised wheelchair. The current laws governing the power and speed of motorised wheelchairs does restrict a large number of users. Due to the cost of such devices it is just not equitable to possess a different device for different uses. I feel there should be changes to these laws or some sort of licensing that allows the use of over powered and faster chairs for people who 'require' these functions. I sincerely hope consideration regarding this is included in the upcoming review.

A mobility scooter on the other hand is a transportation device for accessing the community and not so much a necessity.

I would like to read any comment you have relating to my email and look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Sean Corcoran