

Submission No 17

23.02.2009

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

RECEIVED SM
23 FEB 2009
BY: LACA

By email to: laca.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Submission on the DRAFT Disability Access to Premises Building Standards

I refer to the above matter and write to request that consideration be given to the introduction of a tax concession relating to the direct building and associated costs for the provision of access where the building works are undertaken without same being required by statute, regulation, local government requirement, construction approval or similar requirement.

This would help provide an incentive for the provision of access not only for disabled people and their carers, and also for people with prams for young infants, people with walking frames and people with electric scooters.

As the population ages access will become a greater issue for many in our communities.

The tax concession could be a 100% (or other %) or an accelerated depreciation allowance over 2 or 3 years.

I attach a copy of a letter to me from David Bradbury MP Federal Member for Lindsay dated 04 FEB 2009.

Would you kindly follow up with the Assistant Treasurer's and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services' staff in relation to the matter.

In my view such a scheme is worthy of detailed consideration and would encourage commercial premises owners and/or tenants to consider the opportunities for providing or improving access to their premises. Increased numbers of customers/clients should increase sales and service.

Whilst my submission does not go to the DRAFT directly, I ask the Standing Committee to seek appropriate assistance and expertise from the government so that my proposal can be subject of discussion and hopefully implementation, even if by another government department.

I have been confined to a wheelchair for 31 years and am confronted with these problems on a daily basis. In my employment with Panthers for 27 years I continuously come into contact with large numbers of people from a broad section of the local community including parents with prams, the elderly with walking frames

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and/or electric scooters, the disabled and persons who are suffering injuries. This proposal will be of significant benefit to all.

One small example of the practical application of my proposal would be the removal of a step into a shop and its replacement with an appropriate grade ramp.

Please feel free to contact me by phone about this matter.

Yours sincerely

John W Farragher

This email was typed for and on behalf of John Farragher, and on his direction, by Stephen Bowers