

Mr Mark Dreyfus QC, MP
House of Representatives Standing Committee
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Submission No 138

RECEIVED
17 APR 2009

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BY: LACA

Dear Sir,

This is a submission put forward from a mother of a child with a disability, and also a concerned community member for those who do not have equal access as able bodied people do. I recognise that the DDA has been made to provide equality to those with a disability, but I do not however feel that the people in my local community in Chester Hill let alone the broader regions of Sydney are being provided with the level of accessibility outside of their homes to give the freedom of maintaining a healthy and social lifestyle.

I saw a different wheelchair bound man in my local area as I was driving and realised the dangerous position he had to put himself into to get around. He was traveling on the road because there was no footpath, and it could have put him in a very compromising situation as he was low to the ground and not very visible. An in my own street I am aware of two wheelchair bound people. Our street has no sidewalks at all leaving only the road to travel along.

I feel strongly that we should be enabling people with a disability to be as independent as possible giving them confidence. Maintaining mental and physical health through positive actions can benefit society also. I am aware that initial outlay for such research, planning and construction is often large, on the other hand the benefits of resources saved in other sectors from the positive changes, such as health care are also substantial.

I urge you to put in research to providing greater access to urban areas and public buildings for people with a disability, as a matter of health, safety and equality.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerley

Natalie Moos