

24<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

The Committee Secretary,  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local  
Government,  
House of Representatives,  
Parliament House,  
PO Box 6021,  
House of Representatives,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra. ACT. 2600.

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: **Regional Partnership Program Funding**

McCallum provides services to over 250 people with disabilities in Ballarat and district. These people predominately have intellectual disabilities.

McCallum Industries is the business service arm of McCallum and employees 100 supported employees in a factory located at 1820 Sturt Street, Ballarat.

With the advent of the Commonwealth Government QA Reforms which incorporated the payment of an award based wages to supported employees some years ago McCallum Industries has been focusing on the development of the business on a commercial footing to ensure that it would remain financially viable.

McCallum with the support of the State Department of Planning and Development and Commonwealth Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is in the midst of launching a new confectionery business known as "Ollie's Lollies" in mid August, 2008. A pilot confectionery business has operated since October, 2007. When formulating plans to move into a new business in addition to what McCallum Industries currently undertakes it was evident that the factory would need to be expanded. The McCallum Board from its own funds purchased three industrial blocks at the rear of the existing building at a cost of \$266,000 plus GST.

Prior to the purchase of the land discussions had commenced with vicCHACC about the possibility of obtaining \$300,000 under the Regional Partnerships Funding Program to enable a new factory to be built. McCallum indicated that it would contribute \$300,000 from its own funds. McCallum was in the process of completing a funding application when news was received that Regional Partnership Program Funding would cease.



The Regional Partnership Funding was very important to McCallum as there is no other avenue available for it to obtain capital funding for building development. For McCallum to continue to offer existing supported employees ongoing employment and have the opportunity to offer employment to additional people with disabilities who are seeking it McCallum Industries must expand its current premises and obtain the necessary work to keep it financially viable.

McCallum would therefore ask the Standing Committee to ensure that agencies such as McCallum continue to have access to capital funding in the future for the benefit of the many people with disabilities who we provide services for.

Yours faithfully,

Shane D. Molloy  
Chief Executive Officer

