



Dear Sirs,

Reference the enquiry into the grants given under ATRAC programme for the Tablelands.

We have a motel in the village of Yungaburra. The area is very attractive as a destination to tourists but we lack the facility of a mobility unit in the area. We decided to pursue the idea and attended a seminar, discussing the need for more disabled facilities in all areas of tourism, held by Tropical Tablelands Tourism . It was attended by a only a handful of people and included a gentleman in a wheelchair who gave an insight into the difficulties he encounters when trying to travel. But by the poor turnout at the meeting it was obvious that it was not high on most peoples agenda. After making enquiries we invited Yvonne Tunney to a meeting at the motel to discuss possibilities of any grants or low interest loans that were available in order that we could build a purpose built unit to cater for a wide range of disabilities. We were told at this meeting that as an **existing business** we would not qualify for any grants under the ATRAC scheme.

We have since applied and received planning permission for the unit. Unfortunately, due to the building boom, the cost has escalated and now stands at twice the price is was two years ago when we first started to plan. So without funding it is currently not cost effective.

When we have seen **existing businesses** granted hundreds of thousands of dollars for projects that

are already catered for in the area we wonder how they managed to get round this ruling.

We await with interest the findings of your investigation.

Yours sincerely

Margaret & Stephen Richards

Curtain Fig Motel, Yungaburra, 4884