



Our ref: 39150006
Inquiries: Dr Ron Chalmers
Telephone: (08) 9426 9250



making a difference

Allen Consulting Group
GPO Box 418
CANBERRA ACT 2601

dstransport@allenconsult.com.au

Dear Sir / Madam

The Disability Services Commission in Western Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Report - Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT)*.

The Commission supports the recommendations outlined in Chapter 13 of the draft report. The implementation of these recommendations will significantly improve several aspects of the DSAPT.

The Commission is particularly supportive of the recommendation to empower the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to refer cases of breaches of the Transport Standards directly to the Federal Court. People with disabilities have reported their desire to pursue breaches but were apprehensive of legal and financial implications of such action. Implementation of this recommendation would remove this heavy responsibility from the individual and place it with a legislative body where it belongs.

The Commission also strongly supports the concept that dedicated school bus services and community bus services used to transport people with a disability or older people are included in the DSAPT. It is important that a compliance timetable is established without delay to enable students with disabilities to mix with their peers and to remove the existing burden on parents and the use of Multi Purpose Taxis to transport students to and from schools.

The recommendations relating to the technical aspects of the DSAPT are also of great importance. Enhanced technical expertise will support the transport industry and assist it in developing greater confidence in the application of the DSAPT. Transport-specific guidelines will be easier for consumers to understand and for individual providers and industries to comply with.

While the Commission supports the recommendations, the significance of informing and involving people with disabilities, their families and carers in all aspects of change should not be forgotten. It is essential that considerable efforts are made to ensure that they understand the importance and implications of any future changes to the DSAPT. With this information, they can play a role in informing transport providers of relevant changes and where to source accurate information.

I look forward to hearing of the outcome of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ron Chalmers
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

28 March 2008

W:\Director\W08\DG\Correspondence\C-DG1115 Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT).mhutson.doc