

Monday 7 January 2013

State and Regional Development Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Email: [stateregional@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stateregional@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Inquiry into Inter – regional public transport**

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) would like to thank the Legislative Council State and Regional Committee for the opportunity in providing additional comment to the Inter- Regional Public Transport inquiry. At the public hearing on 25 October 2012 further comment was sought by the Committee on additional consultative processes. Further comment was sought on the following:

*In your organisation's submission to the inquiry, it recommends that CountryLink and bus operators liaise with local councils and staff through Ability Links program to ensure that bus stop and taxi stand infrastructure provides safe and convenient access to transport, pedestrian parking and retail areas. Are there any other stakeholders CountryLink should be meeting with, either as part of this program or otherwise?*

Depending on the purposes of seeking stakeholder feedback the following strategies could be used. Peak disability organisations such as PDCN regularly conduct community surveys on specific issues, host community consultations across NSW, and obtain feedback via board members who are from different areas of NSW, and who have physical disability, except for one member who is a parent of a child with physical disability on issues and concerns. Over the past twelve months PDCN has conducted the following specific issue consultations on issues relevant to transport: CountryLink, the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme and the PDCN Transport survey as part of the review into the national transport standards, and additionally have conducted community consultations in Charlestown, Tamworth, Bathurst and Dubbo. We understand that other peak disability organisations conduct similar consultative processes to glean consumer feedback, and could be used to promote further inquiries or consultations being conducted by CountryLink.

PDCN is able to circulate information about CountryLink campaigns and programs via the PDCN website, twitter, newsletter, sample bags and Community Forums. Additionally information services such as Ideas on Disability, Education, Awareness Services (IDEAS) could be useful to promote campaigns being conducted by CountryLink. This service is located in rural NSW has a sound knowledge of issues concerning rural NSW and has established many useful links that could be utilised. Contact details for the IDEAS regional office are as follows;

Office address: 53 Merivale Street, Tumut NSW 2720

Postal address: PO Box 786, Tumut NSW 2720

Phone: (02) 6947 3377

Fax: (02) 6947 3723

Manager: [mgr@ideas.org.au](mailto:mgr@ideas.org.au)

The Community Transport Organisation could be used to access issues on regional transport and disability, until the implementation of the NSW Government Ability Links program. This peak body has regional services across regional and rural NSW, and is primarily involved in developing policy, advocacy and providing leadership to community based regional offices. For further information the Community Transport Organisation can be accessed using the following contact details:

Office address: Suite 2, Level 1, 186 Church Street, Parramatta

Postal address: PO Box 1047, Parramatta 2124

Phone: (02) 9635 8980

Fax: (02) 9635 9430

Manager: [mso@cto.org.au](mailto:mso@cto.org.au)

Regards

Ruth Robinson

Executive Officer