

Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney
NSW 2000

RECEIVED

28 SEP 2010

**LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

**Re: Inquiry into Services provided or funded by the Department of Aging,
Disability and HomeCare**

***Please see response to question on notice from appearance of
representatives from ParaQuad, Paraplegic & Quadriplegic Association of
NSW to the committee: Mr. Max Bosotti, CEO and Ms. Tonina Harvey, General
Manager Community Services***

1. *Can you comment on any variation in the quality and availability of supported accommodation that is available between metropolitan and regional NSW*

This response is provided in the context of available supported accommodation for people with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), who may also fall into the category of people with high level physical disability.

Within the Sydney Metropolitan region there is an ongoing demand for supported accommodation for people with SCI and high level physical disability. Two major not for profit organizations have the following facilities within NSW:

ParaQuad NSW

Ferguson Lodge - This is a facility which is currently under redevelopment in Lidcombe with funds provided by ADHC and the Motor Accidents Authority. The service offers Permanent & Respite Accommodation for 40 individuals – 24 high care, 16 independent living in 2 bedroom units. At this stage there is only secured recurrent funding to operate 24 beds. **The facility being built is of a high quality, however without adequate recurrent funding there are 16 beds which will not be able to be opened in March 2011 if funding is not secured.**

Berala Transitional Accommodation Service: This service offers transitional accommodation – up to 18 months for people who require fully modified accommodation. This service consists of 5 Studio Units: 3 x 2 bedroom homes and 2 x 3 bedroom homes. The service is offered to individuals and their families, therefore offers 10 places for people with SCI. These are Department of Community Housing properties which are currently undergoing refurbishment.

Newcastle Transitional Accommodation Service: This service consists of 1 x 3 bedroom unit which is located in Hamilton. Due to the configuration of this service, it

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can only accommodate 2 people in wheelchairs comfortably. This unit is owned by the Department of Community Housing, is old and requires full refurbishment to bring it up to functional standards for people with high level physical disability. **Despite a full Occupational Therapy report and multiple submissions to Housing, refurbishment for this property has been overlooked in the current round of stimulus funding.**

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

This organisation currently operates supported accommodation in homes within the following suburbs:

Chatswood: 1 x 4 Bedroom Home

Maroubra: 2 x 4 bedroom homes + 1 x 3 bedroom home

Coffs Harbour: 1 x 4 bedroom home

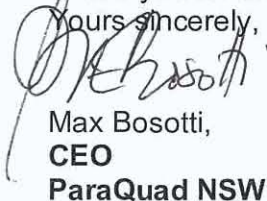
As you can appreciate this means that there are only 6 beds available in regional areas and no accommodation in rural areas.

Key Issues to consider in relation to supported accommodation:

- Support accommodation is not an answer unless people with high level physical disability also have access to care;
- Current supported accommodation facilities available require sufficient recurrent funding to operate to capacity;
- People living in rural and regional areas who require accommodation are often reluctant to leave families and support networks to have accommodation in the metropolitan region, which is highly understandable;
- There is a high demand for supported accommodation within:
 - ⇒ the Hunter/ New England Region
 - ⇒ Mid & Far North Coast Areas and to a lesser degree in
 - ⇒ The Illawarra
- All people with high level physical disability require varying degrees of care and support. **Supported accommodation for people who do not have Attendant Care packages is also not available** anywhere within NSW;
- The ceiling on the number of Care Packages available limits capacity for people with high level physical disability to live in the community;
- ParaQuad NSW has previously submitted a request to ADHC to fund care within supported accommodation facilities, however this has been refused.;
- There is no supported accommodation available for respite for people who are ventilator dependent within NSW.

Thank you for the additional opportunity to respond to this question.

Yours sincerely,



Max Bosotti,
CEO
ParaQuad NSW



Tonina Harvey
General Manager,
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