

**Submission  
No 13**

**THE PROGRAM OF APPLIANCES FOR DISABLED  
PEOPLE (PADP)**

**Name:** Mr Bruce Ellison

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## PADP Submission by Bruce Ellison

To the members of the inquiry,

I am a user of PADP equipment, I have a Disability pension, and I have muscular dystrophy, am restricted to a powered wheelchair and need the use of nocturnal ventilation.

Recently I had a sleep study and my sleep specialist made a recommendation that I will need to have a new machine that has a battery backup system fitted. This new machine would replace my current VPAP which is over 8 years old and has been continually used every night for approximately ten hours per night. I have been told these machines under this work for about 9 to 10 years before they start to fail, hence my need to start the process of applying for a new machine.

My sleep specialist at RPAH sent the application to the Respiratory section of the PADP office in the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health. Because I have muscular dystrophy, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is the best sleep clinic for patients with my condition. I live in Willoughby, which is in the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health region.

Being anxious to hear how my application was proceeding I rang the number I was given at Hornsby Hospital and was told that the person looking into my claim was on six weeks leave and not likely to return and nothing was happening. I was then told to ring a Gosford number as all respiratory equipment would be run from Gosford Hospital. When I did eventually get on someone there, they went and found my application and they would not do anything until such time that the machine failed. I said to them if it failed in the middle of the night what should I do? They said be like

anyone else and go to your local hospital, then get in touch with us then we will start the process.

In my experience machines tend to breakdown outside office hours and being prepared for such an eventuality would be prudent and costs affective.

We are talking about a machine that now costs around \$4,500 and would keep me alive and out of the hospital high dependency units.