

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

**Organisation:** Dietatians Association of Australia  
NSW Branch

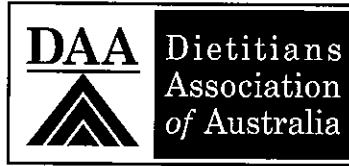
**Name:** Ms Yasmine Probst

**Position:** Chairperson

**Date received:** 3/09/2008

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Ms Beverly Duffy  
Director  
GPSC2  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000



**New South Wales Branch**

3 September 2008

Dear Ms Duffy,

**RE: Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) New South Wales Branch  
Submission to Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee  
No 2. Inquiry into the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP)**

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the National Association of the nutrition and dietetic profession and is a leader in nutrition and advocates for better food, better health and better living for all. The DAA NSW Branch would like to make a submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry into PADP in particular with reference to the appropriateness and equity of eligibility requirements.

Dietitians play an important role in the management of people who require tube feeding. People may require tube feeding because they are not able to eat orally (eg. due to swallowing problems such as stroke, head and neck cancer, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease) or they cannot meet their nutrition needs by oral diet alone (eg cystic fibrosis, failure to thrive).

PADP provides tube feeding equipment and consumables to enable people who require tube feeding to feed themselves at home. These consumables include giving sets, containers and feeding syringes, and equipment such as feeding pumps and stands.

**Issues of concern to DAA NSW Branch:**

DAA NSW Branch considers access to tube feeding consumables and equipment should be fair and equitable to all who require tube feeding not just those who are eligible under PADP for the following reasons:

- Without these consumables and equipment, people cannot feed themselves.
- These consumables and equipment are not covered under private health insurance or any other national or state funded scheme
- These consumables cost \$5-\$15 each (retail) and it is recommended that they be changed daily (labelled single use only). This is a significant cost for people who do not meet PADP eligibility criteria. (\$1825-\$5475/year)
- Many tube fed patients do not meet the criteria of permanency (need for a year or more). For example head and neck cancer patients may require tube feeding for 6-12 months while they recover from cancer therapy.

*Please address all correspondence to New South Wales Branch*

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- There does not seem to be consistency between lodgement centres regarding eligibility to assess tube feeding consumables with some centres approving access and others not.
- Patients who are eligible for PADP assistance only receive less than the recommended number of consumables (typically 2 giving sets/containers per week).
- There are long waiting lists in some lodgement areas. This is unacceptable as tube fed patients require this equipment to feed themselves.

**Recommendations:**

DAA NSW Branch supports the work and recommendations of the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce (GMCT) Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN) Network and has a DAA NSW Branch representative on this committee. The DAA NSW Branch would support a system where:

- There is equity in access to consumables for all who require tube feeding across NSW.
- Patients who require tube feeding have access to one giving set per day as per the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Guidelines for Single Use Devices.
- There is a coordinated system to administer the supply and delivery of tube feeding consumables.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself ([yasmine@uow.edu.au](mailto:yasmine@uow.edu.au)) if you have any questions in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely,



Yasmine Probst  
Chairperson  
DAA NSW Branch

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