

Submission
No 66

THE PROGRAM OF APPLIANCES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE (PADP)

Organisation: Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care
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Position: Director General
Date received: 11/09/2008

DADHC

**Department
of Ageing,
Disability &
Home Care**

**Office of
the Director-
General**

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC
Committee Chair
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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11 SEP 2008

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Attn: The Director, GPSC2, Legislative Council

~~- 5 SEP 2008~~

Dear Ms Parker

I refer to your correspondence regarding the Inquiry into the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP).

PADP provides aids and appliances to assist a range of people with a disability to live in and participate in the community. The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) has long been a key stakeholder in the program and was pleased to sit on the Advisory Committee of the major Review of PADP (the Review) conducted by NSW Health in 2006.

DADHC indicated its support for the broad directions of the Review report and the Government's response to it. In particular, DADHC supported the initial stage of reform, which sought to standardise and consolidate disability equipment services. The transfer of state-wide administrative functions of PADP to *EnableNSW* was seen by DADHC as a significant step in reforming and improving the program. DADHC receives regular information on the implementation of the Review recommendations through a DADHC/ NSW Health Senior Officers group which meets bi-monthly.

While the funding of PADP is the responsibility of NSW Health, DADHC has also provided funding for specific equipment needs as required. For example, an amount of \$2 million was added to the recurrent base of PADP to help meet the equipment needs of children under sixteen. Similarly, in August 2007 DADHC provided a grant of \$4.1 million to *EnableNSW* to meet the equipment needs of young people living in, or at risk of moving into, residential aged care.

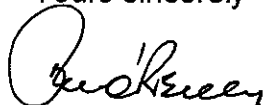
I note the Inquiry's interest in considering future departmental responsibility for PADP. In responding to the Review, DADHC expressed its view that it would not be appropriate for DADHC to take over future administration of the program. The consolidation of equipment schemes operated within NSW Health and the Area Health Services has resulted in a service that is significantly larger in scope and size than PADP. A significant proportion of the aids and equipment to be made available through *EnableNSW* are for the specific health-related purposes of clients of NSW Health.

In addition, it is important to note that a key component of the PADP model is the role of clinicians in prescribing aids and equipment. The current location and management of the program supports this important feature of the service. DADHC therefore considers it preferable for PADP to be operated within a health program context and maintains its view that responsibility for the Program sits appropriately with NSW Health.

NSW Health is establishing the *EnableNSW* Advisory Council to provide high-level strategic advice in regard to *EnableNSW*. DADHC has accepted a position on the Advisory Council and is confident that this is an effective way for it to contribute policy expertise to the NSW Health disability support services, including PADP.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Thank you for providing DADHC with the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Brendan O'Reilly
Director-General