

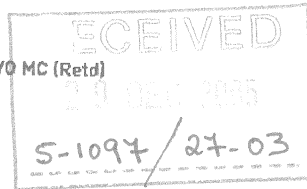
**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS AUTHORITY
AND THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS COUNCIL - SEVENTH
REVIEW**

Organisation: Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
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Date Received: 21/12/2005

Theme:

Summary:

Patron: His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia



The logo for Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, consisting of the letters "SCI" in a bold, sans-serif font, with three vertical bars of varying heights to the right of the letters.

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The Hon Christine Robertson MLC
Committee Chair
Standing Council on Law and Justice
Parliament House
Macquarie St Sydney
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Subject: Submission on the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and the Motor Accidents Council (MAC)

Dear Ms Robertson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on the functions of the MAA and MAC.

We would like to focus our submission on the activities of the MAA in regard to the Community Participation Project and the establishment of guidelines for personal care for people with a spinal cord injury or acquired brain injury.

The MAA has undertaken a lead role in the development of guidelines on how personal care services should be provided and on the level that people require. This is clearly demonstrated with the recent working party chaired by the MAA on 24 hour care and the guidelines that have come from that working party. Whilst this is targeted to people injured in motor vehicle accidents, these guidelines are applicable to people who received their injury in other ways.

The Attendant Care Guidelines produced by the MAA are also a very good example of where the MAA has taken the initiative to address issues for their own client base, but where the results can be more broadly applied.

We strongly endorse these types of activities and the role that the MAA has taken in bringing the industry experts together and achieving useful results in the form of the guidelines.

In regard to the Community Participation Project, the MAA has once again brought a diverse group of organisations and government departments together in an attempt to establish a holistic response to issues which arise for people with traumatic injuries. Whilst we would argue that the development of a whole of government response to issues should be a government responsibility, in this particular project, the MAA has played an important role in translating this ideal into a more practical solution. We are very

interested in the results from this project and the potential for expanding the processes and procedures to people who are injured in ways other than motor vehicle accidents.

As a result of this project, a number of problems in terms of how services are provided have been identified & addressed. We therefore encourage the MAA to continue to establish such projects in the future and to use the results as a recommendation to government departments and other organisations for improvements in processes and procedures.

In regard to the Motor Accidents Council, we do not have any particular comments to make other than to say we believe there is potential for the Council to be more proactive in making its role better known.

Yours Sincerely,



Greg Bergan
Chief Executive Officer