

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

Organisation: Occupational Therapy Department
Cessnock/Kurri Kurri and Singleton Health Services

Name: Ms Angela Towns

Position: Senior Occupational Therapist

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Submission to Inquiry into the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP)

On behalf of:

Occupational Therapy Department
Cessnock/Kurri Kurri and Singleton Health Services

Comments:

- There are significant concerns held about the Centralising of PADP's. We are currently serviced by PADP Newcastle, which is an excellent service. The efficiency of the department, local availability and knowledge of the staff, and accessibility of equipment for trial is integral in allowing us to perform our jobs in a timely and efficient manner. Staff feel that if we cannot access equipment locally, and we lose the professional excellence of our local PADP, that there will be a very negative impact for our clients.
- Wait times for high cost items of equipment is not acceptable. Some clients are waiting a year for items (eg wheelchairs) that they desperately need.
- Wait times at times also impact on other services eg:
 - We OTs need to re-visit clients to re-measure them as there has been a large gap in time since equipment was prescribed.
 - At times HACC services are unable to commence intervention as the appropriate equipment is not in place to ensure all OH&S standards have been met.
- The equity of eligibility requirements is questionable. Namely;
 - The Clinical Indicator form used in Newcastle is not an accurate reflection of need. It is not a user friendly tool.
 - The Bands for eligibility for PADP seem unfair at times. For eg clients whose spouse may be working [but are by no means a high income family] seem to be penalised in comparison to those who are on a pension.
- As clients with increasingly complex needs living longer in the community, the need for equipment is going to continue to grow significantly.

Yours sincerely,

ANGELA TOWNS
Senior Occupational Therapist
Cessnock/Kurri Kurri and Singleton Health Services

Hunter New England Area Health Service
ABN 24 500 842 605

Occupational Therapy Department
Cessnock/Kurri Kurri Health Service
Cessnock District Hospital
PO Box 154 Cessnock NSW 2325
Telephone (02) 49910446 Facsimile (02) 49910531