

Submission  
No 36

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

**Name:** Norman & Chris Mackenzie

**Date received:** 2/09/2008

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Our severely disabled 26 year old daughter is a brain injured, blind pensioner. We, her parents (both holding down full time employment) are her principal carers, on call 24/7. She has been the recipient of PADP assistance since she was a small child and we are very appreciative of this service. However in recent years the limitations put the supply of disposable hygiene products (30 disposable continence pads/month) appear petty and unrealistic. This number makes no allowance for the ability, age, health or well being of the person needing them or the level of care required by that individual. Although we are conscious of not being wasteful (avoiding unwarranted changes) 3 pads per day is an inadequate level of supply. Possibly an accountant's estimation of what might be acceptable on a good day, it is in fact insufficient on any day. Just like the rest of the population, disabled peoples habits vary from one day to the next. If they are unable to communicate the task of providing personal care is at best hit and miss. These products are consumed when our daughter is in our care and when she is not (ie at her day program). The level of consumption is out of our control while she is in the care of others (8.30 am to 3.30pm Mon-Fri). For families such as ours the care for our highly dependent loved ones continue when they are in good health and when when they are not. There are so many factors that can influence the rate of consumption of these products that are out of our control yet we are expected somehow to stay within this unrealistic limit. This has resulted in recent years in the family purchasing 3 months supply, the Commonwealth supplyin approximately 3 months and PADP supplying 6 months. I would ask that this limit be removed and that families such as ours, caring for high support individuals, be supplied with the number that they need to ensure the dignity and wellbeing of our loved ones.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Norm and Chris Mackenzie