

Submission  
No 3

**INQUIRY INTO THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF  
THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT AUTHORITY AND  
THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT ADVISORY  
COUNCIL - FOURTH REVIEW**

**Name:** Mr Edwin Harris

**Date received:** 9/08/2011

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8<sup>th</sup> August 2011

The Director  
Standing Committee on Law & Justice  
Legislative council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney, 2000

Dear Sir,

**Fourth Review of the Lifetime Care & Support Authority**

My 33 year old son, Mark, is a paraplegic as a result of a bus turning right in front of him on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The bus driver was charged, found guilty and sentenced. He has appealed and the appeal is yet to be heard. At the Third Review last year my son had been living largely in hospital, rehabilitation and temporary accommodation. During this period I saw him frequently and was able to comment directly on his day to day problems dealing with the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA). He is now married, has his own home and I see him less frequently. I am therefore unable to comment on any difficulties he may still be having with the LTCSA.

However, I am very sure that my son is completely competent to manage his own affairs and should be given the chance to control his own future by allowing him to take a lump sum payment rather than having to run to the LTCSA every time he needs to make a purchase which the LTCSA could be expected to pay. Modifying the legislation to allow the payment of a lump sum would restore to mentally competent, not at fault victims of road accidents a level of independence and dignity which running, cap in hand, to the LTCSA, does not allow. I understand that this amendment to the legislation has been proposed in the past.

My request, then, is that the Lifetime Care and Support legislation be amended as I have suggested and has been previously proposed. It may be that it will be considered necessary to place some restrictions on how a lump sum payment is used or invested. I am sure that reasonable restrictions would be readily accepted by my son and by those other accident victims able and wishing to take the lump sum option.

I hope that you will give my request serious consideration. I am very sure that my son is completely competent to manage his own affairs and would welcome such a change in the legislation as, no doubt, would many other accident victims.

Yours faithfully,

D. E. Harris