

Submission  
No 1

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

**Organisation:** Hunter New England Health  
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**Position:** Community and Home Mods Occupational Therapist  
**Date received:** 2/07/2008

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I have a disabled client who has limited mobility and has used Canadian Crutches to mobilise for most of his adult life (he is 54 years old on a disability pension). He was born with marked leg length discrepancy causing him to have a spinal scolliosis and which has resulted in him having rod implants to assist with spinal straightening. Due to osteoarthritis of his spine shoulders hips knees he has poor mobility and each time he transfers into and out of bed he overuses major joints including shoulder and spinal vertebra and the rods are now displacing due to vertebra fractures. He lives in chronic pain.

Problem: Although he also has well managed epilepsy he is unable to go shopping to his local shopping centre 2kms down the footpathed street, without relying on expensive cabs. He has trouble getting groceries from shelves and carrying items. I want to get scooter through PADP but according to PADP he has to be "unable to walk" and they will only supply electric wheelchairs with clinical reasoning. This client is a proud man and wants to maintain his independence and PADP reportedly do not supply scooters only electric wheelchairs but according to the clinical criteria as he does have some mobility he is not eligible for electric wheelchairs.