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31 January 2012

**The Consolidation of Federal Antidiscrimination Laws:
Submission by**

**PointZero5.com Disability Campaign
SpinalInjuryAdvocacy.com
Everything-About-Disability.com**

This submission is made by the above Organizations on behalf of associated People with Disabilities, Families, Carers & Volunteers.

By implementing the points below, this will severely limit the number of anti discrimination complaints for the various Federal / State Commissions & Courts. Put simply, People with a Disability, and especially wheelchair bound persons, should be able to use the same facilities and services as able bodied people.

Due to time restraints, all questions required will not addressed, however we will advise the important changes we feel imperative to be introduced by the various Anti Discrimination Government Departments, both Federally & State below in brief. Further comments about these necessary changes can be gained by contacting Mr Peter Yeo, President of the PointZero5 Disability Campaign, with contact details below.

We feel it is compulsory the immediate changes below be implemented to assist all People with a Disability Nationally...

1) Building Access

- a) There appears to be very little control in the design and construction of new buildings ensuring easy disability and wheelchair access to all floors.

Before builders and developers gain their official permit of occupancy, all Govt Officials

should certify, separately, that the building is totally wheelchair friendly as per the official disability standards.

- b) All existing buildings where renovations of any kind are applied for, should also have full wheelchair accessibility.
- c) All buildings, whether heritage or not, where there is public access of 1 or more persons, should have full wheelchair accessibility in the form of a ramp with inclines to the official standards, or a lift, to all floors. All these existing buildings should be given 2 years to comply from date of implementation, or by the end of 2015 at the latest.
- d) All the above will allow all wheelchair bound and people with a disability to access an event or meeting just as easy as an able bodied person.

2) Building Lifts

- a) All Buildings with lifts should have easy access to and from the lift entry/exit area for all size wheelchairs.
- b) All lifts in buildings with any public access should be of a size which easily fits any wheelchair bound person, including power wheelchairs of all sizes.
- c) The lift buttons, both inside and outside lifts, should be easily accessible by all people in a wheelchair.
- d) All new buildings should be complete with buttons in the middle of the lift low enough for all persons.
- e) All older buildings with any public access, as from July 1st 2012, should be given 24 months to renew lifts to the above standards.

3) Hotels / Motels / Resorts

20% of all Accommodation Houses and Apartment rooms should have wheelchair friendly facilities, and especially have...

- a) bedrooms with easy access for a standard hoist to be placed under beds
- b) beds with easy access for all mobile hoists under them
- c) bathrooms with showers without a lip, allowing easy access for a shower chair under the shower head
- d) a fully fitted bathroom with toilet rails and a toilet which allows a shower chair to

move easily above the seat.

- e) A seat and rails in the shower as per disability guidelines
- f) Non slip floors where water appears
- g) Shower hoses and heads under disability standards, together with water temperature gauges.

4) **Financial Hardship & Not For Profit Organizations**

- a) Financial hardship for owners of buildings and businesses/organizations should be immediately eliminated as an allowable excuse not to have proper wheelchair and disability facilities.
- b) If a building or organization cites financial hardship as a justification for not allowing, say disability access, they should immediately be placed in the hands of receivers.
- c) Similarly, not for profit organizations should be able to use the reason for not complying to disability standards, if they have this status granted to them.

5) **Air Travel**

- a) All travel, whether air travel or not, should allow a person with a disability who has to employ a carer to assist them, free travel for the carer. Able bodied people only have to pay one fare to travel, therefore why should a wheelchair bound person have to pay 2 fares to travel.
- b) Guide dogs travel free of charge with a separate seat in most cases, therefore why should humans not be treated the same!?
- c) There should be no restrictions on the number of people with a disability who can travel on an aircraft at one time. If a limit should be implied, it should be 50% of wheelchair passengers should be allowable to travel on the same aircraft at the same time, not 2 per flight!
- d) All commercial planes should have a proper sling on board to shift a wheelchair bound person from seat to seat, and in and out of the plane safely – plus all airline staff should be trained accordingly to ensure a safe journey for all people.
- e) Where possible there should be an 'Eagle 2' type of hoist available for transfer of all wheelchair bound clients, and financial hardship should not be a reason not to have these type of easy access hoists

6) Rail Travel

- a) Currently, it is alleged, there is an application by Queensland Rail and associates to extend the upgrading of their trains by a further 5 years, at the same time disallowing wheelchair bound people full access to all trains and stations for up to 10 years. This should definitely not be granted, as it is alleged, virtually nothing has been completed in the previous 5 year's extension.
- b) Full disability and wheelchair access should be implemented in, and on, all trains nationally by the end of 2015, including having 20% of all sleeper trains fully accessible for high level wheelchair persons – ie including on-train hoists for showers, toilets, and beds – plus full access to all restaurants and bars.
- c) 90% of all metropolitan railway stations, and 100% of all country stations, must be wheelchair accessible by the end of 2015 as well.

7) Bus Travel

- a) In a similar way and percentages as trains, all public buses must be wheelchair friendly, with 20% seating capacity in all buses for wheelchairs.
- b) Because buses, roll slightly around corners, all buses must have tie-down wheelchair straps to ensure a safe ride not slipping, with passengers deciding if they require to use these seat belts.
- c) All buses must be inspected for a disability safe access and ride by a government official or certified RAA/RACQ/RACV etc inspector quarterly, with signed documentation issued before the vehicle can travel.
- d) All bus drivers and attendants must pass a ½ day disability course before being allowed to travel on a bus.
- e) The weight restriction of 300kg should be raised to at least 350kg as in Taxis.

8) Taxi Travel

- a) All wheelchair taxis, or vehicles which can carry 6 or more passengers, must be able to provide carriage for a power wheelchair person easily inside the vehicle.
- b) All wheelchair bound passengers, including those in power wheelchairs must be able to see through windows externally like able bodied people.

- c) All taxis must be inspected for a safe disability hoist or ramp access and ride by a government official or certified RAA/RACQ/RACV etc inspector quarterly with signed documentation issued before the driver can be hired.
- d) All taxi drivers must pass a ½ day disability course before being allowed to drive a wheelchair taxi.

9) Footpath Construction

To enable wheelchair travellers to travel safely...

- a) all bitumen/cement/tiled footpaths, and the like, must be as smooth as adjacent sealed roads, or better than roads if they are in a state of bad repair.
- b) All footpaths, where there is an opening, must have a safe wheelchair accessible departure ramp – ie., footpaths should not have impassable light poles on them, or be tapered to a triangle or similar at one end, disallowing an exit.
- c) All ramps to footpaths must be accessible, and be of acceptable disability standards in relation to slope and height ratio.
- d) All access stop light buttons on footpaths must be able to be easily reached by all people in a wheelchair safely, including those in power wheelchairs.

10) Disallowing People with a Disability to Speak

All people with a disability must be given equal time and access as able bodied people to speak at government and other public meetings

11) Government Departments Should Not Discriminate

If Government Departments, and Staff in Government Departments, discriminate against one Person with a Disability with another, by disallowing services or products to one more than another, these Officials and Departments should be able to be placed in the Anti Discrimination Commission Courts to solve Complaints from People with a Disability.

Similarly, Political Parties, Councils and Politicians should be accountable in a comparable way.

12) GST & Tax Deductibility for Disability Equipment

All Disability Equipment, whether old or new, should be GST free and tax deductible.

Privately funded equipment or services, purchased to promote the health, fitness or well-being of a person with a disability, should also be fully tax deductible.

For further details please contact Mr P Yeo, Email: info@pointzero5.com

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