



Transport and Resources Committee
Parliament House, George Street,
Brisbane Queensland 4000
trc@parliament.qld.gov.au

4 July 2022

Dear Committee Members,

RE: QDN Response to the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters Amendment) Bill 2022

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is pleased to provide this brief response to Transport and Resources Committee with regards to the important issue of motorized mobility aid devices (MMDs) for QDN members and Queenslanders with disability. QDN supports the overall intent of the Bill to improve the safety of Queenslanders on our roads as motorists and pedestrians.

Background and Context

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is an organisation of, for, and with people with disability. The organisation's motto is "nothing about us without us". QDN operates a state-wide network of over 2,000 members and supporters who provide information, feedback and views from a consumer perspective to inform systemic disability policy and disability advocacy.

QDN response

QDN and QDN members have been engaged in national policy reform around the rules and standards that govern the use of motorised scooters and motorised wheelchairs (collectively known as Motorised Mobility Aid Devices (MMDs)) in Australia. QDN members have raised the challenges with the regulatory barriers and inconsistencies which have impacted upon individual access and use of devices most suited to people's individual needs.

QDN acknowledges that this is an important issue to people with disability who use MMDs, however, whilst targeted consultation was undertaken with some peak organisations through specific reference groups in developing this draft Bill, QDN identifies that consultation would have been strengthened through broader community consultation to enable the disability community an opportunity to engage and have discussion to inform these changes.

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QDN supports the proposed changes outlined in this Bill to implement the national model legislation around definition of MMDs, removal of unladen mass limits for motorized wheelchairs and increasing the maximum unladen mass for mobility scooters from 150kg to 170kg, classification of MMD operators as pedestrians, and maximum speed capability of 15kms for MMDs whilst maintaining 10kms speed limit when on public path. However, in the implementation of this legislation, consideration is required to provide examples for users and regulators of 15kms/h use.

QDN has strongly supported the Queensland Governments policy on the free registration of motorised wheelchairs and the accompanying Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance for motorised wheelchair users – as did many other stakeholders who looked to Queensland as the leading jurisdiction in the country on the issue.

QDN supports and welcomes retaining the existing gratuitous MMD registration and Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance arrangements and the change of definition of the unladen mass limit which will mean that more devices will meet the amended definitions and be eligible for gratuitous registration and CTP insurance. However, QDN members have raised that it is important to find more user friendly ways of registering a motorized wheelchair that minimize red tape and compliance for both people with disability and the system.

Alongside these changes, QDN highlights the importance of need for:

- community education for people with disability and others in our community around the changed rules and regulations and
- continuing to improve our community infrastructure to universal design standards to ensure that our communities are more inclusive and accessible as well as safer for everyone.

QDN supports these changes to remove existing impediments and allow everyone with a clear need to legally use a MMD that suits their individual needs, and enable Queenslanders with disability to socially and economically participate in their communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this brief submission to the *Transport and Resources Committee* regarding the you regarding the **Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters Amendment) Bill 2022**

We look forward to hearing the outcomes and recommendations the Committee makes and QDN is happy to provide further advice if required. Please call us on 32528566 if you require further information on our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Moss

Director, Policy and Strategic Engagement
Queenslanders with Disability Network