



Media Release – 7th December 2017

Senate Inquiry into mobility scooters too focused on regulations which will punish seniors and disabled warns industry group

Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia (ATSA) welcomes the announcement of a Senate Inquiry into mobility scooter regulations by the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee.

However, ATSA warns that the focus of the Inquiry is simply on new regulations and restrictions that will only punish seniors and people with disability.

“We believe the Inquiry should concentrate on education and infrastructure,” said David Sinclair, Executive Officer of ATSA. “It is time to address the real issues and not just the mobility device itself. We need to consider how and why are these devices used, not simply their speed and weight. ATSA is concerned that until now, the debate has centred purely on the device and not the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

“There are already well-established structures in place throughout Australia for the management of motorised mobility devices. Such devices are currently regulated by State/Territory road and traffic agencies, Austroads, Standards Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Customs and the Department of Infrastructure.

“ATSA believes in fairness and equity for seniors and people with disability. Rather than over-regulation leading to misalignment with internationally accepted standards, increased public awareness is a far more productive and effective proposition. Education is crucial, including training of users and encouraging all pedestrians to look where they are going.

“If we genuinely want to prevent injuries and fatalities, we should be looking at the infrastructure which creates the risks experienced by users of motorised mobility. These devices are an important enabler that support people to participate in society. This Inquiry needs to examine the lack of alternatives such as safe pathways and accessible and affordable public transport, particularly in rural and remote areas.

“ATSA contends that this Inquiry should be part of the current “Inquiry into the Australian Government’s role in the development of cities” and not an independent, single-issue investigation. ATSA supports well-designed public infrastructure, which will be vital to promote cost effective and safe access to an inclusive society for all citizens, including those with reduced mobility due to aging or disability, and those with sensory loss,” Mr Sinclair said.

ends/...

Contact:

David Sinclair
0418 861847
David.Sinclair@atsa.org.au

Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia Inc
Level 7 – 91 Phillip Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
P (02) 9893-1883
F (02) 8212-5840
W www.atsa.org.au

Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia Inc (ATSA) is the peak industry association representing organisations that supply assistive technology (AT) throughout Australia. Our members manufacture, import, distribute, retail, hire and service a wide range of AT including mobility devices, modified motor vehicles, lifters, homecare beds, communications devices, recreational/sporting AT and pressure care.