



**Community
Legal Centres
Queensland**

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Legal Section
Australian Human Rights Commission
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001

By email only: legal@humanrights.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Application for temporary exemptions from the DSAPT and DDA
Queensland new generation rollingstock**

Community Legal Centres Queensland writes to raise concerns about the State of Queensland and Queensland Rail joint application to the Australian Human Rights Commission for temporary exemptions from the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* and *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) for New Generation Rollingstock.

People with disability should not be disadvantaged or suffer discrimination over the duration of any temporary exemption simply because the trains were not designed to current Australian standards.

As noted by Queenslanders with Disability Network (**QDN**) in its submission, we note a number of concerns with the rollingstock, including access to toilets, width of access paths, location of guards, communications (including signage and alerts), and the need for increased staffing. We endorse QDN's position in relation to these concerns.

Every person with disability has the right to be able to access our Queensland public transport system to get to their destination, and we are concerned that inaccessible public transport will inhibit the ability of Queenslanders with disability to access vital services – including access to legal help. One in six clients of Queensland's community legal centres report having disability, and people with disability are more likely to experience legal problems than the broader community, and already report being less likely to seek legal help than other Queenslanders.

Introducing new rollingstock must be done in a manner that ensures legislative compliance and upholds the rights of people with disability to accessible public transport.

Yours sincerely

James Farrell OAM
Director
Community Legal Centres Queensland Inc.