

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	14
DATE AUTHD FOR PUBLICATION	8/5/07

25/B Eppalock St
 Duffy
 Canberra
 ACT 2611
 13.4.07

Standing Committee Secretary
 Hanna Jaireth
 ACT Legislative Assembly
 G.P. Box 1020
 Canberra
 ACT 2601



Dear Hanna

I am a retired health professional aged 83 disabled, dependent on a wheeled walker for mobility and accessible transport. You ask how Action compares with other transport in Australia?

Two years ago we returned to Perth WA where we spent two weeks in the city and used the free accessible bus each day in great comfort, being informed these buses are very expensive.

Plenty of room for wheel chair bound passengers and space for wheeled walkers.

All seats had grab rails and the drivers were very observant and ensured disabled seats were being used for the disabled.

The step into the bus was lowered automatically not dependent on the driver who has a multiple of jobs to do when the bus stops.

Accessible drivers appear to have special training in being very pleasant helpful and empathetic.

Perth has a great history of understanding

passengers needs, as children we remember the bus driver hooking and unhooking the babiespram on the back of the bus.

Action buses leave a lot to be desired, in fact I think quite dangerous and my patronage is a rarity.

A. The seats 7, 3 or R 3 or L marked for disabled are narrow and without grab rails. No where for my wheeler walker it is impossible to heave this equipment into the ? space for such.

B. The step should be lowered automatically when the bus stops not on the whim of the driver.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Lewis Howe.