

Tuesday, 28 July 2009

FaHCSIA  
PO Box 7576  
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

### **Submission to the National Disability Parking Scheme**

Thank you for providing Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCI Australia) with the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Australian Disability Parking Scheme, which would replace the various schemes in operation in each State and Territory.

SCI Australia supports the schemes aim to provide a new permit that is recognised across Australia and to improve rules around its use.

Comments:

SCI Australia is supportive of harmonising all the parking schemes that should provide uniformity in its criteria for eligibility, permanent or temporary use, parking space time limits and the policing of the initial application approvals and the subsequent use and abuse parking scheme permits.

SCI Australia supports:

1. The harmonised parking scheme should be titled the Australian Mobility Parking Scheme to place emphasis on the aim of the scheme which is to improve mobility
2. The information about the Australian Mobility Parking Scheme should be written in plain English and made available in other community languages as well as different formats for people with a vision impairment
3. Permanent parking scheme permits should have eligibility criteria that requires the applicant to have a permanent disability that requires the use of a wheelchair or mobility device for all mobility.
4. Temporary parking scheme permits should have maximum limits of 3 months, 6 months and 12 months. Temporary parking scheme permits should also be made available to international tourists and students that meet the eligibility criteria for permanent parking scheme permits
5. The current time limits provided in NSW in metered parking spaces. People with significant mobility disabilities, that the parking scheme permits are aimed at assisting, may require four hours or more to undertake their activities including hospital and

medical appointments/tests, shopping, attending movies/theatre including dining out as well as undertaking education, training, volunteering and employment activities to name a few.