

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cat and Dog Review](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Assistance dog support as part of the dog act review
Date: Friday, 2 August 2019 9:45:50 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

My name is Lee Hardy, my Assistance Dog (in training) Nifty, who is a Greyhound. I am passionate about the welfare of Greyhounds, and I have submitted a separate submission.

I am currently training Nifty with Disability Aid Dogs Australia, for both my children (9 years and 6 years old) who are, along with myself are on the Autism Spectrum, we all have Sensory Processing Disorder and experience various levels of anxiety. I also have a few comorbidities which closely run alongside Autism, being ADHD, bipolar disorder and recently PTSD.

This makes my life 'interesting' to say the least. Having Nifty with us, has been a God send. Elevating some of my anxieties, calming my children down, a warm hug when I am in tears, to helping me to locate my car! All this in just four months of training! He is a quick learner and very intuitive to our needs, without us realising at times.

I have just found out, that Disability Aid Dogs Australia whom I am completing my training through, are hoping to gain an Accreditation in its own independent right with the Western Australia Local Government and ideally National Accreditation. Which I thought would be an appropriate time to raise whilst the Dog Act is currently being reviewed.

What this means for myself and my family is the ability to access Public Transport, which is currently not an option, due to the restrictions that are in place for Nifty and our Assistance Dogs. Accessing Public Transport is important for me, to teach my children life lessons early, to enable them to learn skills in order for them to become competent and independent, in preparation for when they are older.

Public Transport exacerbates my anxieties and other symptoms (even the very thought of it triggers me). This is where I need to be able to utilise Nifty to support me, so I can become comfortable catching Public Transport by myself independently, prior to managing this on my own with my children.

I have also been informed that there are currently close to 70 other Disability Aid Dogs Australia members nationally, who are highly likely to be in a similar situation as myself. Looking at logistics, it would be a costly exercise for many people, who are having to rely on taxi's or ride sharing eg Uber, and inconvenient having to rely on family and friends to take them places, if they are unfortunately unable to drive a car, let alone being able to afford to own one, and maintain running costs. This is just one of the several complications for myself and other members of Disability Aid Dogs Australia.

I have attached a letter from Anita, the CEO of Disability Aid Dogs Australia, which she explains in more detail about the organisation, and the importance for us at Disability Aid Dogs Australia to become Accredited. With the current dog laws up for submission, I am hoping this can also be addressed.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself

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Thankyou for your time, it is greatly appreciated, and I hope you are able to assist and support myself and Anita, Disability Aid Dogs Australia.

Kind regards,

Lee Hardy



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