12 January 2017

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


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 that 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.