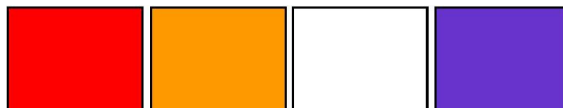


IRSA Update

December 2008



IRSA

INDEPENDENT REHABILITATION SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION of NSW. Inc

Welcome to the IRSA Update

It's that time of year where we are all asking, "Whatever happened to 2008?". Some say it is a sure sign of ageing when the years seem to go by faster and faster, however it is more likely that we are all simply working and living at faster pace than ever before.

December/January is always a challenging time for our industry with a great deal of pressure to meet pre-Christmas delivery deadlines followed by what is generally the quietest 2-3 weeks of the year with therapists on leave and customers enjoying a holiday break over the festive season.

It can also be a challenging time for business cashflow as funders slow payments due to the general dislocation caused by the Christmas/New Year break.

For IRSA it has been a year of great progress and growth for our organisation. Our membership has expanded from just 7 dedicated businesses back in January 2008 to now number 25 with more companies joining every month. Our membership also includes 2 major groups, Peak Care Equipment and Scooters and Mobility Pty Ltd. Both these groups have substantial membership in their own right that further enhances IRSA's representative status.

IRSA prepared 2 major submissions to Government this year, the first to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into PADP and the second to the National Disability Strategy. You will find more detail on these elsewhere in this issue. It seems there will be more of the same next year as the Victorian Department of Human Services looks to reform Victoria's Aids and Equipment Program.

In 2008 we also staged 2 highly successful IRSA Professional Series educational events for therapists and the feedback from those attending has been very positive. There is no doubt that within our ranks there is an enormous amount of knowledge and skill that we can pass onto therapists and

other health professionals.

Thanks to a strengthening relationship with senior finance staff within the NSW Department of Health, we were able to assist several IRSA members who were experiencing severe cashflow difficulties due to late payments from NSW Health. We are grateful for their support and understanding of the difficulties faced by suppliers.

And of course there has been a great deal of work behind the scenes getting ready for the 2009 IRSA Daily Living Expo. We now have more than 40 exhibitors booked to attend with more inquiries coming in every week. With the marketing and PR program now well underway we look forward to a bumper attendance at the Expo.

From a personal perspective, I have been most impressed by the professionalism and goodwill of the IRSA membership. Many IRSA members are fierce competitors in the market, yet have demonstrated what can be achieved when competition is put aside (albeit briefly) and we work as one for the benefit of our industry and those who rely on our equipment.

I want to thank the members of the IRSA Executive Committee who have worked so diligently throughout 2008 along with individuals such as Amy Bjornson, Penny Knudson, George Ajaka, Tony Mason, Steve Adolph, Jacinta Maurin, Nikki McMahon and Joshua Colmer for the many hours they have all contributed to IRSA.

Thank you all for supporting IRSA and helping to give our industry a voice. Let me close by wishing you all...

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Chris Sparks - Executive Officer

Comments or articles can be submitted to –
info@irsa.org.au

What's in this issue -

- *The NSW Upper House PADP Inquiry listens to suppliers*
- *IRSA invited to consult on the Victorian Aids & Equipment Program*
- *2009 Daily Living Expo Clinical Program now finalised*
- *IRSA welcomes another 3 new members*
- *The second IRSA Professional Series another great success*
- *Important news from the TGA*
- *IRSA contributes to the National Disability Strategy*
- *Meet a Member - Northern Rivers Surgical*
- *The EnableNSW Advisory Committee is announced*
- *IRSA's representative attends his first Australian Standards Committee Meeting*
- *Equipment abandonment—debunking the myth*
- *The Physical Disability Council of NSW surveys*

WHAT'S ON

- ♦ **6th February 2009** - Closing date for submissions to the Victorian Aids & Equipment Program
- ♦ **3rd-5th March 2009** - IRSA Daily Living Expo at Rosehill Gardens
- ♦ **31st March 2009** - Closing date for TGA stakeholder consultations on Custom Made Medical Devices

Findings delivered by the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into PADP



*The Hon Robyn Parker MLC
Committee Chair*

On 15th December 2008 the members of the NSW Upper House Committee published their findings into the NSW PADP system. This followed an extensive period of public consultation which saw no less than 79 formal submissions put to the Committee of which 12 of the submissions came from our industry or people working within it. Two days of public hearings then ensued and a third public hearing day was added so that the NSW Department of Health could respond to the evidence collected.

IRSA was requested to give evidence to the Inquiry and IRSA members attended all 3 days of the public hearings. Following the final hearing we provided a supplementary submission to the Committee to clarify evidence that was given by the Department of Health.

Dr Richard Matthews (NSW Health's Deputy Director General of Strategic Development) attended the final public hearing day to answer questions on behalf of the NSW Department of Health. Dr Matthews is one of NSW Health's most senior and respected bureaucrats. During Dr Matthews' evidence he made mention of an EnableNSW "business process working group" that is looking into the issues related to equipment repairs and maintenance. It is disappointing to note, yet again, that suppliers have not been invited to join this working group, nor have we been consulted for our views.

You can download a copy of the IRSA submissions, transcripts of the evidence we provided and the Committee's recommendations by going to <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2> and following the links.

IRSA was then invited to an afternoon tea hosted by the Committee Chairperson, the Hon Robyn Parker MLC where she presented the final report and its recommendations. In all the Committee handed down a total of 21 recommendations to the Government on a broad range of issues relating to the Program. Some important recommendations included -

- **Recommendation 1** - That the NSW Government increase the base recurrent funding level for PADP in 2008/09 to \$36.6 million.
- **Recommendation 3** - That the EnableNSW Advisory Council apply strict performance indicators to PADP waiting lists... (and that) these indicators should be published on the EnableNSW website monthly.
- **Recommendation 8** - That NSW Health abolishes the \$100 co-payment for PADP recipients.
- **Recommendation 10** - That NSW Health ensure that EnableNSW assist with the cost of repairing items supplied by non-government or charitable organisations, as per the NSW Health policy on PADP.
- **Recommendation 13** - That the NSW Government implement a vehicle modification subsidy scheme for people with a disability.

RECOMMENDATION 15

"That NSW Health ensure there is supplier representation on the EnableNSW Advisory Council."

From an industry standpoint it is clear that the Committee took into account the issues raised by IRSA and other industry members. There is a great deal of support within the final report for the move to a pre-approved funding model which we know will save Government and business more than \$4,000,000 every year. There are also three key recommendations that could significantly improve the working life of suppliers -

- **Recommendation 6** - That EnableNSW publicly report the results of its performance against its Key Performance Indicator to pay supply invoices within government terms. These results should be published on the Enable website monthly.
- **Recommendation 15** - That NSW Health ensure there is supplier representation on the EnableNSW Advisory Council.
- **Recommendation 16** - That EnableNSW consider the viability of equipment suppliers in rural and regional areas as part of its new procurement strategy.

The Government now has until 15th June 2009 to respond to the report and its recommendations. It is pleasing to note however that the report has the support of all the Committee members regardless of their political persuasion. Those of us who attended the 3 days of public hearings were unanimously impressed by the knowledge, understanding and dedication of the politicians who were members of the Committee.

It is now up to us to continue to work with the Government to achieve positive change to the PADP scheme in NSW. We are continuing to try to engage with EnableNSW on a range of issues where we believe IRSA can add value to the formation of strategies and policies including -

- Implementation of the pre-approved funding pilots
- Maintenance and monitoring of the common equipment list
- Understanding the cost/benefit of the PADP 3 quotes systems and the rules behind its application
- Fairness and equity in equipment invoicing/approval processes
- IRSA representation on the repairs and maintenance business process working group

We should also remember that without the efforts of the team from Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, along with Greens MP Mr Ian Cohen, there would not have been an inquiry into the NSW PADP scheme. On behalf of all IRSA members we would like to express our appreciation for their efforts and commitment to ensuring a better deal for people with disabilities in NSW.



Mr Ian Cohen MLC

IRSA Professional Series another great day of training and education

On 5th November 2008 we staged the second of our IRSA Professional Series at the Northcott Function Centre in North Parramatta. On this occasion the two topics we presented were -

1. Seating Assessment Principles (Advanced) presented by Amy Bjornson
2. 24 Hour Positioning for Children presented by Jacinta Maurin and Joshua Colmer

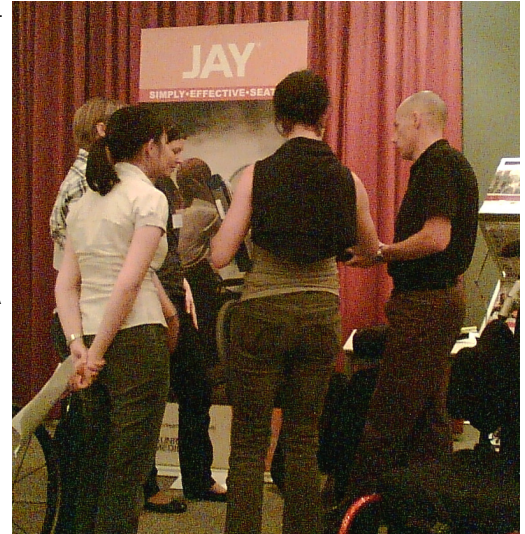
In response to feedback from the first Professional Series, we changed the format slightly and made the day a little longer to allow more time for practical application of the principles taught.

Throughout the day, the 55 course attendees had opportunities to spend time with the IRSA members who took part in the product showcase so that they could get hands on with a wide range of equipment technology. Teams from GTK Rehab, Invacare, Otto Bock, Seating Dynamics, Specialised Wheelchair Company and Sunrise Medical all took time out to support the showcase.

As with our first Professional Series, the feedback from the therapists attending was very positive and truly a credit to the calibre of the three presenters.

One highlight of the event was the end of day challenge to those attending the courses to come up with appropriate equipment solutions for a number of case studies by working with the IRSA members in the showcase area. This provided a great opportunity to put theory into practice whilst allowing the showcasing companies to explain the features and benefits of their equipment solutions.

Our thanks again to Amy, Jacinta and Joshua for their time and professionalism and also to Sunrise Medical, Otto Bock and GTK Rehab for making their people available to support the event.



Sunrise Medical staff work with course members on the case study exercise

Victorian Aids & Equipment Program under review

Thanks to some great networking from Invacare's Steve Adolph, IRSA was able to meet with senior advisors from the office of the Victorian Minister for Health back in October 2008. This gave us an opportunity to introduce IRSA to the Minister's office and make ourselves available to be part of the process of reform for the Victorian Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP).

Each year the A&EP provides subsidies and reissues aids and equipment to approximately 28,000 Victorians who have a long term disability. The program assists people with a disability, including children and older people, with items such as wheelchairs, mobility aids, beds, hoists, continence aids, home oxygen, orthoses and home and vehicle modifications.

The Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) commissioned KPMG to undertake a review of the A&EP and recommended a preferred model for Victoria. The report was released in November 2007 and KPMG recommended that a significant restructure of the A&EP was required in order to make aids and equipment more affordable, reduce waiting times and waiting lists, provide a wider range of equipment and services and allow more people to access equipment and services.

The DHS committed to undertake a redevelopment of the A&EP over the next 2 years, incorporating the 2007/08 State Budget commitments and a number of the high level themes/recommendations from the review. The service delivery model project is one of a number of initiatives related to the redevelopment of the A&EP.

PADP Payments

The NSW Department of Health has been most helpful in resolving issues with some IRSA members overdue PADP accounts.

Please contact IRSA if you are experiencing any difficulties with long outstanding invoices and we will try to help speed up the process.

A discussion paper has been produced which aims to canvass options for a new service delivery platform for the A&EP throughout Victoria. It is proposed to establish a statewide service with a single point of entry to ensure greater equity, transparency and consistency in the allocation of resources and to achieve greater operational efficiency. Three options for a new service model are explored in the paper for consultation and feedback.

Feedback on the proposed options is currently being sought and **submissions close on 6th February 2009**. Following the public consultation period and consideration of submissions, a preferred model of service delivery will be determined by the DHS. All Victorian based equipment suppliers should consider making a submission to the DHS to ensure their views are made clear. It is anticipated that once the final model is decided, there will be a 12 month transition from the existing service system and implementation to the new service model.

IRSA has been invited to attend a meeting hosted by the DHS with suppliers in February 2009 to further explore ways of improving the efficiency in the supply and reissue of equipment for the A&EP.

You can download a copy of the A&EP discussion paper at -
www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/supports_for_people/living_in_my_home/aids_and_equipment_program

Equipment Abandonment - the real story

In the Australian Occupational Therapy Journal (Volume 55, Issue 1), there was an article published titled, **"Hard and Soft Assistive Technology; defining roles for clinicians"**. It was authored by two Victorian based occupational therapists, Natasha Layton and Dee Waldron. This article has been raised by staff from NSW Health in regards to equipment abandonment, ie where an item of assistive technology has been provided and the intended user prematurely discontinues using it for a variety of reasons. In fact this article was quoted by NSW Health on the final day of public hearings for the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the PADP scheme.

This article highlights a statistic that should be of concern to all suppliers, therapists, funders and end users -

"Scherer (2002) cites five studies investigating non-use which state abandonment rates ranging from 30 to 59%."

So, does this mean that more than one third of all Australian Government expenditure on assistive technology and rehab equipment is wasted as the user simply stops using it shortly after it being issued - surely this cannot be so?

Thankfully it seems that this is not the case and we are most grateful to the authors of the article for writing to the Inquiry to clarify the situation stating -

"...this was a brief viewpoint article, not a research study. None of the studies cited in relation to abandonment rates, contain Australian data, and it would be inaccurate to extrapolate these abandonment rates to NSW, or to conclude that the calibre of NSW prescribers is an issue in abandonment, based upon this article."

However, this issue deserves our focus as we all know there is at least some degree of equipment abandonment in Australia. In discussions with a number of qualified individuals including Ms Layton certain factors come to mind -

- Under funding and funding caps forcing individuals to accept a less than optimal equipment solution that does not address their needs
- Funding delays forcing people to source inappropriate equipment just to try and get by
- Therapists forced to act as fund raisers or funding gate keepers making it difficult to properly focus on the end user's needs
- A prescriptive approach to providing equipment that does not properly engage and empower the end user and fails to involve them fully in the selection of equipment

There is some great work being done by many individuals to help reduce equipment abandonment but in the meantime we must be aware of the old saying which tells us, *"there's lies, damn lies and then there's statistics"*.

Quote Shopping

Remember that the practice of "Quote Shopping" where a supplier does an assessment & then finds that their quote is used to obtain competitors' quotes in order to drive costs down... **contravenes NSW Health's policy and can be a breach of copyright & intellectual property laws.**

All IRSA members are encouraged to include a statement on their quotes to highlight this - contact IRSA for details.

Please let IRSA know if you have experienced any instances of Quote Shopping and we will take it up with the NSW DOH.

Meet a Member - Northern Rivers Surgical



Why did you join the HME industry?

"We purchased Northern Rivers Surgical Supplies in 2001 after a 6 year search for a business that offered both potential and a service to the community. As our business grew we employed qualified technicians as well as an Occupational Therapist and more recently a highly qualified Physiotherapist who is certainly proving her worth. The aim of our company is to provide a level of service and equipment commensurate with that available in any Australian capital city and we continue to achieve that. Although we did not set out to join the HME industry it turned out to be the right decision as the work is very satisfying and dealing with young children with disabilities is especially rewarding."

In Business:

Since 2001

Employees:

16

Top Products:

Daily living aids
High end mobility
Seating
Paediatric

CEO/Owner:

Ron van Setten

Why is Northern Rivers Surgical an IRSA member?

"Northern Rivers Surgical joined IRSA at a time of need when NSW Health was playing havoc with our company's cash flow. At the same time EnableNSW was promising some major and potentially uncompromising changes which we feared would damage the industry. More importantly, our end-user customers were the ones who could suffer most. IRSA promised to be a worthy spokes body on these issues and history has shown it to have been successful. To have this sort of representation at the highest level is just so important for small business and we congratulate IRSA for its success to date."

What is Northern Rivers Surgical's top priority for IRSA?

"Our top priority for IRSA is to continue supporting the industry as a whole, especially by convincing those in higher office of the importance of the regional supplier to the aged and disabled community at large."

4th Daily Living Expo - 3rd to 5th March 2009

We are now filling our final spaces for the 2009 Daily Living Expo to be held at Rosehill Gardens in March this year. The 2009 Expo looks like being our biggest yet supported by an extensive public relations program to ensure we maximise the benefits to all exhibitors.

**Don't miss
out. Bookings
close soon.**

Expo Fast Facts

- More than 2,000 visitors attended each of the last 3 Expos
- 15% discount for IRSA members
- Setup from 2:00pm on Monday 2nd March 2009
- Expo concludes at 2:00pm on Thursday 5th March 2009
- FREE parking, FREE entry & FREE admission to all clinical presentations

This is the only Expo of its kind, run by the industry for the industry. One company generated over 145 sales leads at the last Expo and said this was more business than their sales team could drum up in a month - all achieved in just a couple of days.

Join the likes of Pride Mobility, Walk on Wheels, Mobility Matters, Scooters Australia, OT NSW and the more than 40 other companies and organisations who have already booked their exhibition space.

As with the previous 3 Expos there will be an extensive program of clinical workshops featuring expert speakers from around the world (see next page for details)

There are a few prime sites still available so get in now to guarantee your place at the 2009 Daily Living Expo.

EnableNSW Advisory Council Announced

In July 2008, EnableNSW invited expressions of interest (EOI) from individuals keen to join the EnableNSW Advisory Council (ENAC). ENAC will play a key role by providing advice on matters of strategic importance regarding the EnableNSW programs including PADP, the Artificial Limb Service and the three Home Respiratory Programs.

ENAC comprises 13 members of which 10 are selected through the EOI process and the balance are from the Disability Council of NSW, NSW Health and the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care.

EnableNSW received a total of 62 expressions of interest for the ten membership positions selected through the EOI and the successful applicants were -

- Dr Chris Poulos - Rehabilitation Physician
- Ms Lesley Gild - Carer of a person with a disability
- Ms Tonina Harvey - Registered Nurse
- Ms Silvana Mahmic - Carer of a person with a disability
- Mr Alan Membrey - Consumer
- Ms Angela Stark - Physiotherapist
- Ms Ann-Mason Fumage - Consumer
- Ms Alina Carroll-Roper - Occupational Therapist
- Mr Greg Killeen - Consumer
- Associate Professor Ms Karen Waters - Paediatric Respiratory Physician

The three representational members of ENAC are -

- Mr Dougie Herd - Executive Officer of the Disability Council of NSW
- Ms Catherine Lynch - Director, Primary Health and Community Partnerships, NSW Department of Health
- Ms Alix Goodwin - Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Planning, Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care

Dr Chris Poulos and Ms Lesley Gild have accepted the roles of co-chairs of the Council.

There is clearly a great deal of knowledge and expertise within the membership of ENAC, with consumers, health professionals and care givers all represented. The concern is that suppliers have no direct voice on the Council. There is clearly an absence of anyone with experience in the manufacturing, supply and service of the sort of equipment that is funded by the programs administered by EnableNSW.

Any questions or comments regarding the Council can be directed to Ms Bronwyn Scott, Director, EnableNSW on 1800 362 253.

"The concern is that suppliers have no direct voice on the Council. There is clearly an absence of anyone with experience in the manufacturing, supply and service of the sort of equipment that is funded by the programs administered by EnableNSW."

IRSA Daily Living Expo Clinical Educational Program

A feature of the IRSA Daily Living Expo is the Clinical Educational Program that runs each day in the lecture rooms conveniently located above the exhibition floor. This year we are fortunate to have some highly credentialed speakers presenting on a wide range of topics of interest to therapists and end users alike. We are delighted to welcome guest presenters from New Zealand and the USA along with our local Australian speakers and the good news is that admission is free to all sessions.

TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2009

STREAM 1

- 8:45am Positioning for Sleep - Night Time Positioning
Ms Jacinta Maurin OT (Otto Bock Australia)
Mr George Ajaka OT (GTK Rehab)
- 9:45am Understanding the Medical Benefits of Standing
Mr Andrew Gardeen (Altimate Medical USA)
- 10:45am Innovations - G Trak & Infrared for Powered Mobility
Mr Mike Babinec OT (Invacare USA)
- 2:15pm Principles of Seating - Static vs Dynamic
Ms Cathy Mulholland (Pacific Rehab Arizon USA)
- 3:00pm Matching Powered Mobility Controls to Client Need
Mr Ron Smelter (Pride Mobility Australia)

STREAM 2

- 8:45am What is Functional Electronic Stimulation & what can it achieve now & in the future?
Assoc Professor Glen Davis (Sydney University)
- 9:45am You have the right wheelchair frame, don't stop there
Ms Amy Bjornson PT (Sunrise Medical)
- 10:30am Looking beyond the physical need - how matching equipment to emotional need can increase equipment utilisation
Mr Bruce Campbell (Dynamic Controls NZ)
- 2:15pm Clinical Approach to Active Seating
Mr Ryan Malone (Bodypoint USA)

WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2009

STREAM 1

- 8:45am The Benefit of Sit to Stand Wheelchair Technology
Mr Gilbert Logan (Otto Bock Australia)
Monitoring Air Flotation Cushions - Air Alert Cushion
Ms Penny Knudson OT (Otto Bock Australia)
- 9:45am Pressure Mapping, Clinical Protocols & Reporting
Mr Malcolm Turnbull (Seating Dynamics)
- 10:45pm Principles of Seating - Static vs Dynamic
Ms Cathy Mulholland (Pacific Rehab Arizon USA)
- 2:15pm Innovations - G Trak & Infrared for Powered Mobility
Mr Mike Babinec (Invacare USA)
- 3:15pm Is it suitable for Under-5s to drive powered wheelchairs? - The parents perspective.
Mr George Ajaka & Mr Joshua Colmer (GTK Rehab)

STREAM 2

- 9:45am Access to information, products & resources - the future
Ms Kerrie Thomson OT (Accessibility Online)
- 10:45am Understanding the medical benefits of standing
Mr Andrew Gardeen (Altimate Medical USA)
- 2:15pm Clinical Approach to Active Seating
Mr Ryan Malone (Bodypoint USA)
- 3:15pm Accessible Seating Educational Program - NSW Health Website
Ms Charisse Turnbull OT (State Spinal Cord Injury Service)

THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2009

STREAM 1

- 9:30am What is Functional Electronic Stimulation & what can it achieve now & in the future?
Assoc Professor Glen Davis (Sydney University)
- 10:30am Impact of Aging on the Needs of People with a Disability
Ms Ruth Robinson (Physical Disability Council NSW)

STREAM 2

- 9:30am Hands On - Principles of thermoplastic upper limb splinting
Ms Megan Gandfors (Hands on Hand Therapy Services)
- 10:30am Promoting Successful Wheelchair Mobility in Younger Clients
Ms Amy Bjornson PT (Sunrise Medical)

TGA Stakeholder Consultation on Custom Made Medical Devices

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) consults stakeholders when developing or amending regulations for the control of medical devices in Australia. The TGA is currently seeking input from our industry on the "Guidance document for the regulation of custom made medical devices" which impose requirements on manufacturers and suppliers relating to -

- Demonstrating compliance with the essential principles of safety and conformance
- Documentation of manufacturing practices
- Labeling of the finished device
- Record keeping, post market reporting and notification of manufacturing activities to the TGA

Comments must be received by 31st March 2009 and you can obtain full details on how to make comments by visiting the website

<http://www.tga.gov.au/devices/drcustom.htm>

Welcome New IRSA Members



ACCESSIBILITY.COM.AU

Ph 1300 222 377
Fax (03) 8648-5641
products@accessibility.com.au
www.accessibility.com.au

Accessibility.com.au is a comprehensive online resource that provides information on accessible venues, facilities, services, transport, mobility aids and news. As well as a vast library of useful information, Accessibility.com.au has an extensive online shop featuring mobility and homecare products supported by the expertise of qualified and experienced occupational therapists.



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Fax +64 (9) 837-2063
sales@dme.co.nz
www.dme.co.nz

For many years DME has been a major player in the New Zealand rehab and home care market specialising in pressure care, mobility and daily living aids. They are soon to be commencing operations in Australia bringing their wealth of experience and expertise to our local market.

IRSA Consults on Mobility Standards

In May 2008, IRSA called for nominations from IRSA members to represent our industry on the ME-067 Australian Standards Committee for Mobility Appliances for People With Disabilities. We believe it is important that manufacturers and importers have a say on the formation of Australian Standards that impact our business.

We only received one nomination, however it came from a highly credentialed industry figure with more than 3 decades of experience in prescribing, designing, configuring and implementing equipment solutions for people with disabilities. I am pleased to advise that Mr Ian Mortimer is now IRSA's representative on the ME-067 Standards Committee.

Ian attended his first Standards Committee meeting in December 2008 and reported that the new standard AS3673 for bath seats and shower chairs is now in the final stages of review. He also advised that the wheelchair standard AS3695 is due for review and will be the focus for 2009. Ian will be consulting extensively with IRSA members to ensure their views are represented as the Standard is reviewed. IRSA members should also note that there is now also a testing laboratory established in Melbourne (Autoliv) for the crash testing of wheelchairs.



Ian Mortimer - IRSA's Representative on ME-067

The next meeting for the Committee will be on 2nd March 2009 in Sydney so that the members can attend the IRSA Daily Living Expo.

Please email Ian with any comments or feedback to -

imortimer@invacare.com.au



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www.watercomfort.com.au

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Free Training & Education

Would you like to get access to world class, online training for seating people with spinal cord injuries?

Then follow the Resources link at



<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/spinal/>

All the learning & tools that you need, available 24/7 and at no charge

National Disability Strategy

On 5th November 2008 IRSA was invited to attend a public consultation as part of the Federal Government's initiative to develop a new National Disability Strategy. The Strategy will aim to address barriers that are faced by Australians with disability and to promote inclusion.

At the consultation we were able to highlight the importance of the timely provision of appropriate aids and equipment to people with disabilities and how this can help to promote social inclusion and avoid premature admission to high cost institutional care.

With input from our IRSA membership, we then developed a 19 page submission that argued for more equitable national funding programs, streamlined assessment processes, protection of the interests of rural suppliers and emphasised issues related to equipment service and maintenance.

The final submission will soon be available for download from the IRSA website -

www.irsa.org.au

Physical Disability Council of NSW Surveys

IRSA is proud to be a member of the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) - the peak body in NSW representing people with a physical disability. PDCN is currently conducting two important surveys of the experiences of people with disabilities at the recent elections on 13th September 2008 and also in regard to adjustable height examination tables in doctors' surgeries.

Full details of the surveys are available at the PDCN website -
www.pdcnsw.org.au

Ordinary people ordinary lives

IRSA Members Register

Accessibility Online

PO Box 389
CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450
Ph (0400) 88-6976
Fax (03) 8648-5641
www.accessibility.com.au

Dejay Medical

1 Prince William Drive
SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147
Ph (02) 9838-8869
Fax (02) 9838-7869
www.dejay.com.au

Disability Hire Vehicles

49 Hession Road
OAKVILLE NSW 2765
Ph (02) 4573-6788
Fax (02) 4573-6989
www.disabilityhire.com.au

Durable Medical Equipment

PO Box 12-1454, Henderson,
Waitakere City, Auckland, New Zealand
Ph +64 (9) 835-9203
Fax +61 (9) 837-2063
www.dme.co.nz

E&S Wheelchair Sales

Unit 6 - 1 Field Close
MOOREBANK NSW 22170
Ph (02) 9822-4323
Fax (02) 9822-4207

GTK Rehab

Unit 11 - 14 Boden Road
SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147
Ph (02) 9620-9177
Fax (02) 9620-9081
www.gtkrehab.com.au

Home Safety and Comfort

2/187 Lake Road
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444
Ph (02) 6581-2400
Fax (02) 6581-2422

Hospital at Home (Eniax Pty Ltd)

1/30 Heathcote Road
MOOREBANK NSW 2170
Ph (02) 9601-6909
Fax (02) 9601-7870
www.hospitalathome.com.au

Independent Living Specialists

67 Mars Road
LANE COVE NSW 2065
Ph (02) 9427-4995
Fax (02) 9427-4338
www.ilsau.com.au

Invacare Australia

1 Lenton Place
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151
Ph (02) 8839-5333
Fax (02) 8839-5353
www.invacare.com.au

Kalnin Corporation

PO Box R1751
ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225
Ph (02) 8259-9600
Fax (02) 9247-6990
www.agedcaretechnologies.com

Lifehealthcare Hospital and Rehab

4 Noonan Place
INGLEBURN NSW 2565
Ph (02) 9618-5000
Fax (02) 9618-5111
www.lifehealthcare.com.au

Met-A-Lite Manufacturing Company

17-19 Mitchell Road
BROOKVALE NSW 2100
Ph (02) 9905-3947
Fax (02) 9905-2213
www.metalite.com.au

Mobility Matters

35 Townsville Street
FYSHWICK ACT 2609
Ph (02) 6280-7244
Fax (02) 6239-1281
www.mobilitymatters.com.au

Mogo Wheelchairs

Unit 5—42 Canterbury Road
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
Ph (02) 9708-5255
Fax (02) 9796-2479
www.mogowheelchairs.com.au

Northcott Equipment Solutions

1 Fennell Street
NORTH PARRAMATTA NSW 2151
Ph 1800 11-8481
Fax (02) 9890-0924
www.northcottes.com.au

Northern Rivers Surgical

18 Endeavour Close
BALLINA NSW 2478
Ph (02) 6686-6644
Fax (02) 6686-9383
www.intermobility.com.au

Otto Bock Australia

62 Norwest Boulevard
BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153
Ph (02) 8818-2800
Fax (02) 8814-4500
www.ottobock.com.au

Peak Care Equipment

1/187 Lake Road
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444
Ph (02) 6581-2400
Fax (02) 6581-2422
www.peakcareequipment.com.au

Pride Mobility Products

21 Healy Road
DANDENONG VIC 3175
Ph (03) 9706-4611
Fax (03) 9706-4622
www.pridemobility.com.au

Scooters and Mobility Pty Ltd

23 outlets across Australia
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Fax (03) 5368-2655
www.scootersandmobility.com.au

Seating Dynamics

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SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147
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Fax (02) 9012-0087
www.seatingdynamics.com.au

Specialised Wheelchair Company

Unit 5 - 26 Wattle Road
BROOKVALE NSW 2100
Ph (02) 9905-5333
Fax (02) 9905-2208
www.swco.com.au

Sunrise Medical

Unit 7 - 15 Carrington Street
CASTLE HILL NSW 2154
Ph (02) 9899-3144
Fax (02) 9899-3244
www.sunrisemedical.com.au

Watercomfort Company

42 Alexander Avenue
TAREN POINT NSW 2229
Ph (02) 9531-1699
Fax (02) 9531-1799
www.watercomfort.com.au