



**Senator the Hon Jan McLucas  
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers**

MC10-015960

Councillor Geoff Lake  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

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Dear Councillor Lake

Thank you for your letter of 1 October 2010 about resolutions passed at the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government.

I note Campbelltown City Council's resolution about including local government representation on the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. I will take this into account should vacancies on the Council arise in the future. I was pleased that the Australian Local Government Association provided valuable input into the development of the National Disability Strategy through representation on the officials working group.

The terms of reference for the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into a national disability long-term care and support scheme require the Commission to examine the role of carers, including issues around respite care. A number of local governments have made submissions to the Inquiry, and I encourage you to continue your input when the Productivity Commission begins its next round of consultations following the release of its draft report in February 2011.

I was also pleased to note the resolution from the Hurstville City Council supporting the National Dialogue on Universal Design. Please be assured of the Commonwealth Government's ongoing support for this initiative, and in particular, the National Dialogue's commitment that all new homes will be of agreed universal design standards by 2020.

You may be interested to know that, as an outcome from the National Dialogue, the former Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services and Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, launched along with leaders of the housing industry, disability and community sectors, the Livable Housing Design guidelines on 13 July 2010. The Livable Housing Design guidelines, developed with the residential building and construction industry, are intended to promote new voluntary guidelines for housing to meet the needs of older Australians and people with disability. The guidelines describe a number of core easy living elements that aim to make a home more responsive to the changing needs of home occupants.

As part of this launch, the Commonwealth Government has committed to invest \$1 million over four years to drive and innovate partnership with leaders of the construction and property sectors to promote Livable Housing. Further information about the Livable Housing Design initiative can be found on the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website at [www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/pubs/housing/Pages/livable\\_design.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/pubs/housing/Pages/livable_design.aspx).

The Hurstville City Council resolution also asks the Commonwealth Government to direct the Australian Building Codes Board to make changes to the Building Code of Australia to incorporate universal design principles to ensure that housing better meets the needs of people with disability and the needs of the elderly. I have referred your letter to the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Kim Carr, as he has portfolio responsibility for these matters.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely



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