



Association of Australian Assistance Dogs (N.Q.) Inc.

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5th January 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Inquiry into the Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights
Legislation Amendment Bill 2008

We request that when amending the above legislation, that the term "Relevant Organisation" be defined as an organisation registered under the relevant state or territory law to train and accredit dogs.

If the amendments allow any person to set themselves up as an organisation to place dogs with the public then potential problems can arise for those accredited organisations placing fully trained dogs with the public.

In this area we have a person with no animal training qualifications who obtains dogs from Animal Refugees, does some form of training with them and then sells these dogs to unsuspecting members of the public.

Many of these dogs have behavioural problems resulting in them being banned from premises and airlines.

When we wish to take our fully trained dogs into public areas and airlines we sometimes have to go to great lengths to convince shop owners, airlines etc that we are no way connected with this individual and that our dogs will not present a problem to them.

We feel that any potential problems can be avoided if organisations which are registered under state or territory legislation are the only ones permitted to accredit assistance dogs.

Yours sincerely

Brian O'Neill (President)