

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT QUESTION

ASKED BY: Ms Janie Finlay MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Disability Services

QUESTION:

My constituent writes: as a group of regular harness racing patrons mainly situated at Mowbray, we have a rather large concern as to the safety of some patients with disabilities who are confined to wheelchairs and also walking aids.

We have witnessed on two occasions fires where we've had to leave the building with no accessible access. Our question is: why is there no accessible access to the ground floor other than the lift, which cannot be used during a fire, and several flights of stairs, which is impossible to get out with a disability?

We would appreciate a response to this question as we find this rather concerning. From Sharon, Raymond, Butch, Zani, Serena, Wayne, Allen, Gary and Denise

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question of 21 May raising concerns from a group of harness racing patrons regarding accessibility and evacuation procedures, particularly for patrons with disability.

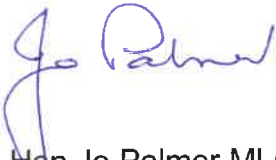
Advice was sought from the Minister for Racing. I have been advised that Tasracing has recently engaged a Workplace Health and Safety Manager and will be reviewing its procedures with the hosting clubs. I am advised this review will include disability evacuation procedures as part of its ongoing commitment to safety and continuous improvement.

I am further advised that this information has been shared with Sharon, Raymond, Butch, Zani, Serena, Wayne, Allen, Gary and Denise.

Please note I have also requested that the office of the Minister for Racing keep me updated on the outcomes of the review and that the Minister's office also keep Sharon, Raymond, Butch, Zani, Serena, Wayne, Allen, Gary and Denise informed of any relevant updates as they become available.

Additionally, under the *Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024*, all defined entities, including Tasracing will be required to prepare and implement Disability Inclusion Action Plans (the Plans) outlining how it will promote inclusion and remove barriers for people with disability across its functions and services. The Plans are expected to be established by early 2027.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Disability Services

Date 27/6/26