



## Media release

5 October 2016

### **New Trains Not Accessible: State Government Must Fix**

Four billion dollars' worth of new Queensland trains will not be fully wheelchair accessible, according to disability group Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI). QAI is speaking out on behalf of a group of public transport users who have concluded from the specifications that they will not be able to access the trains.

In 2013 the Newman government awarded the New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) project to Bombardier-led consortium Qtectic. The 75 Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs) are due to begin service on the South East Queensland passenger rail network later this year, and the remaining fleet rolled out until late 2018. The current design has a number of access challenges.

- The corridor to the toilet is too narrow for most manual and motorized wheelchairs.<sup>1</sup>
- The toilet space not accessible. Best and safest practice is for the wheelchair to fit parallel to the pedestal. In the EMUs the allotted space is too small.
- The guard will be at the rear instead of in the middle of the train where they will be needed to assist with boarding and alighting.

“The timing could not have been worse” said Michelle O’Flynn, QAI Director.

“The roll-out will coincide with the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland. The NDIS is the foundation of a new era of participation for people with disability, and accessible public transport is key to participation in jobs, education, training, social life. It’s critical to exercising citizenship rights.”

“From the beginning, the procurement process should have included public consultation with people with mobility impairments. That way, the problems would have been identified before the contract was signed.”

“These trains are meant for 30-plus years of service. We call on the state government to suspend work on them, meet with disability groups, and work out fully accessible solutions.”

Michelle O’Flynn 0481 381528

---

<sup>1</sup> Only one carriage has a bathroom. There is insufficient accessible path of travel from carriage to carriage. The corridor connecting car 3 to car 4 (the toilet car) is approximately 600 mm wide. The average width of manual wheel chairs is 600 mm – 750 mm.