DEAR SIR/MADAM

I would very much like to make the following points to the
Disability care and support inquiry

I have read the preliminary report and I'm still very concerned that the matter of
services available to the AMPUTEE section of the Australian community is still not
being addressed as it should be.

- I wholeheartedly support the comprehensive submission from Limbs4Life of
  August 2010.
- Funding for NSW amputees is woefully inadequate and doesn't take into
  account current technologies or mobility/safety requirements of amputees.
- Funding should follow individual amputees to enable prescription, supply or
  maintenance of artificial limbs if the amputee is not in their local area. eg. If
  interstate at time of required service.
- The Association of which I am a member (Amputee Association of Sydney
  Inc.) is purely a voluntary organization which assists members and others with
  information, peer support visiting of amputees (pre and post amputation) in
  hospitals or homes as requested, publishes a very informative quarterly
  magazine (mailed to members) which is distributed widely throughout
  Australia, New Zealand and U.K. The Association is not funded by
  governments but relies on membership fees and donations.
- I believe amputees deserve better funding to enable themselves to return to
  their communities as independent members. Safety is a big concern and later
  technologies take this into account. If an amputee is protected from falls by
  better technology then the Government will save the expense of
  hospitalisations. This should be expounded to Government departments
  involved in funding for amputees.
- Prior to 1998, the Federal Government through Veterans Affairs, funded
  prosthetics for amputees throughout Australia. This would seem more
  appropriate, allowing for equality of Australian amputees.
- The gap between compensable and public amputee services has widened to a
  point now where publicly funded amputees have become second class citizens.
  It is time to right the wrongs!

Regards.
Janice Harrison