



## Advocacy for Inclusion

*Incorporating People with Disabilities ACT*

2.02 Griffin Centre

20 Genge Street

Canberra City 2601

(02) 6257 4005

ABN: 90670934099

[www.advocacyforinclusion.org](http://www.advocacyforinclusion.org)

Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Skills and Training  
Special Minister of State

Via email: [steel@act.gov.au](mailto:steel@act.gov.au)

Dear Minister Steel,

We welcome the ACT Government's recent decision to investigate and subsequently remove all shared Beam Mobility e-scooters from Canberra. Micro-mobility devices such as e-scooters have been promoted as a sustainable, alternative, and cost-effective form of travel. However, there are a number of serious and recurrent issues concerning the expansion of e-scooter usage that need to be raised and addressed.

Over recent years, AFI have engaged in sustained systemic advocacy and policy work in planning, transport and infrastructure. Throughout this work, our focus has always been to ensure Canberra is an accessible and equitable city where people with disability are included and can comfortably navigate a changing urban realm.

We are engaged in these policy challenges because accessible and equitable transport and planning can be the difference between community living and independence and highly restricted lives for people with disabilities. Public health and community development research demonstrates and reiterates the inherent connection between the (built) environments in which people carry out their daily activities and their health and well-being.

In terms of e-scooters, the challenges extend beyond provider misconduct and non-compliance. Recently, numerous cities around the world including Melbourne, Paris, Copenhagen, Utrecht, and Malta have either banned or heavily restricted e-scooter usage citing concerns surrounding safety and the behaviour of riders.

Within Canberra, there are steadily increasing numbers of people with disability including older and frail Canberrans. While there are some people who benefit from e-scooters, and we are not calling for a ban on the devices at this stage AFI have concerns about their operation.

AFI are hearing more reports from people with disability and older Canberrans regarding near misses or collisions with e-scooters on footpaths, bike paths and within shared spaces. For some people with disability and older Canberrans, the popularity and expansion of e-scooters have come to represent an increasing challenge.

E-scooters create significant accessibility barriers as they are often left in front of kerb ramps or on footpaths, blocking the pathway for wheelchairs and mobility devices. These challenges are introduced and address in more detail in [our submission](#) to the consultation regarding the further expansion of Canberra's shared e-scooter scheme.

It has become increasingly clear that the introduction, let alone the expansion of e-scooter schemes, cannot operate safely without the provision of additional infrastructure and signage, user and driver education, as well as expanded rule and legal enforcement.

As the ACT Government has indicated its intention to further expand the scheme and attract more providers, it is critical that these issues are addressed before a new licence is issued to replace Beam.

Please feel free to discuss this letter with Jo Luetjens, Policy Officer, Research and Data, via [jo@advocacyforinclusion.org](mailto:jo@advocacyforinclusion.org) or myself on [Craig@advocacyforinclusion.org](mailto:Craig@advocacyforinclusion.org)

Regards



Craig Wallace  
A/g Chief Executive Officer  
Advocacy for Inclusion  
6 September