

Question on Notice
No. 818
Asked on 27 November 2012

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to significant delays between when a person applies for support through the medical assistance support scheme and when approval is provided for the wheel chair -

Will the Minister investigate streamlining the application process in an attempt to speed up the application process?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Nicklin for his question.

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme receives over 10,000 applications per month with 93% of applications received being approved and processed in the month. The equipment area, which manages access to wheel chairs, receives approximately 1,800 of these applications, with 90% being approved and processed in the month.

All areas of the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme, including the equipment area, require clinical assessment and justification to ensure that the equipment is appropriate for the clients needs and does not make their condition worse e.g. pressure sores. Unfortunately, this necessary part of the process can on occasions take some time, but is in the best interest of the client.

I am advised that the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme has been undertaking a review of the equipment application process including the application forms used. The focus of this review is to reduce the time taken for approvals, while ensuring that clients clinical needs and safety will be the paramount consideration. The review consists of two stages and is expected to be completed by the end of June 2013 following which a trial will be undertaken. I am advised that an evaluation of the trial will be carried out before a full role out.