



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Mr Phil Johnston
67 Coronga Crescent
KILLARA NSW 2071

Dear Mr Johnston

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2006 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, concerning your "Adopt a blind cyclist" initiative. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I commend you for your enthusiasm and commitment to assisting blind tandem cyclists. The national physical activity guidelines state that all adults, no matter what their age, weight, health status or ability, should participate in physical activity. Your dedication to the "Adopt a blind cyclist" initiative will help blind people to meet these guidelines.

I note that you requested advice about obtaining support for your initiative. You may wish to contact the Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) for advice and assistance in contacting local recreational cycling groups. You can contact the ABC by calling (02) 6274 7345, emailing abc@dotars.gov.au, or writing to:

Australian Bicycle Council
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

The ABC website (www.abc.dotars.gov.au) includes links to Australian, State and Territory government departments and organisations associated with cycling, which you may also find useful.

The Department has sponsored Bicycle Victoria for National Ride to Work Day in 2007. Ride to Work Day is being held this year in Victoria and in trial locations around Australia in October. You might wish to consider contacting Bicycle Victoria to discuss whether there are any opportunities to link your initiative with the event. Bicycle Victoria can be contacted by calling 1800 639 634, emailing bicyclevic@bv.com.au, or writing to:

Bicycle Victoria
GPO Box 1961
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

I hope you find this information of assistance and I wish you every success with the "Adopt a blind cyclist" initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMcDonald', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer McDonald
Assistant Secretary
Food and Healthy Living Branch

5 July 2006