

Ontario Public Drug Programs Division / Division des programmes publics de médicaments de l'Ontario
Exceptional Access Program Branch / Direction du Programme d'accès exceptionnel

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HLTC3967DRC-2010-75

April 13, 2010

Mr. Don Kinsley
Chair
Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee
13-575 Thornton Road North
Oshawa ON L1J 8L5

Dear Mr. Kinsley;

Thank you for your letter dated March 19, 2010, outlining your concerns regarding the provision of funding assistance for visual smoke detectors for the deaf. I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) provides funding to Ontario residents who have long-term physical disabilities to provide access to personalized assistive devices appropriate for the individual's basic needs.

The ADP lists new models or second generation versions of currently listed devices through a formalized process that is unique to each type of device. New devices are reviewed by ADP Standing Committees that consist of health professionals, manufacturers, vendors and consumers, at independent testing centres or by the ministry's Medical Advisory Secretariat. Specific requirements must be met prior to a device being listed.

The ADP does not currently have a formalized process for reviewing devices that fall outside of the current mandate and scope of the Program.

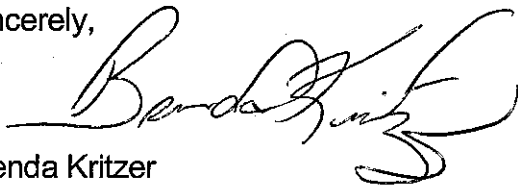
In 2008, the ADP Sensory Standing Committee was asked for their advice regarding Program funding assistance for visual smoke detectors. The Committee's view was that visual smoke detectors are environmental safety devices and fall under home modifications. The committee's opinion was that the devices are not personalized assistive devices and they did not recommend the items for ADP funding consideration.

Mr. Don Kinsley

As discussed with Mr. Patrick Burke, Fire Marshal of Ontario, the ADP is committed to creating efficient, standardized and transparent policies and procedures for the handling of device listing requests for all types of devices as part of a Program-wide modernization project. We will review the request to fund visual smoke detectors for the deaf within the context of the forthcoming device listing policy.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require additional information about the ADP please contact the Program at (416) 327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brenda Kritzer', written in black ink.

Brenda Kritzer
Director

c: Barbara Cadotte
Manager (A), Assistive Devices Program