

# All Pam wants is a normal life

By David Stuart

David.Stuart@mydailynews.com.au

A CURRUMBIN woman was one of many people around Australia this week campaigning for the introduction of a national disability scheme.

For Pam Elliot, 66, the DisabiliTEA morning tea in Tweed Heads was her chance to call for disabled people to receive better support so they had greater choice and control.

In 2000 Mrs Elliot was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

She said the resulting neuromyelitis optica, which rendered her blind, and a case of breast cancer had impacted her life significantly.

In practical terms it meant she required personal care and changing her home in ways that were often not cheap.

"I have to have assistance getting in and out of bed," she said.

"We've got a little ma-

chine that's like a little tractor that takes me down the stairs.

"We were able to be subsidised - it was a \$7000 machine."

She said she wanted to live a normal life.

"I don't like to have anyone treating me like a disabled person," she said.

"I'm still king of the roost."

But despite her own pride and positive approach to life, she said there needed to be more done by the government.

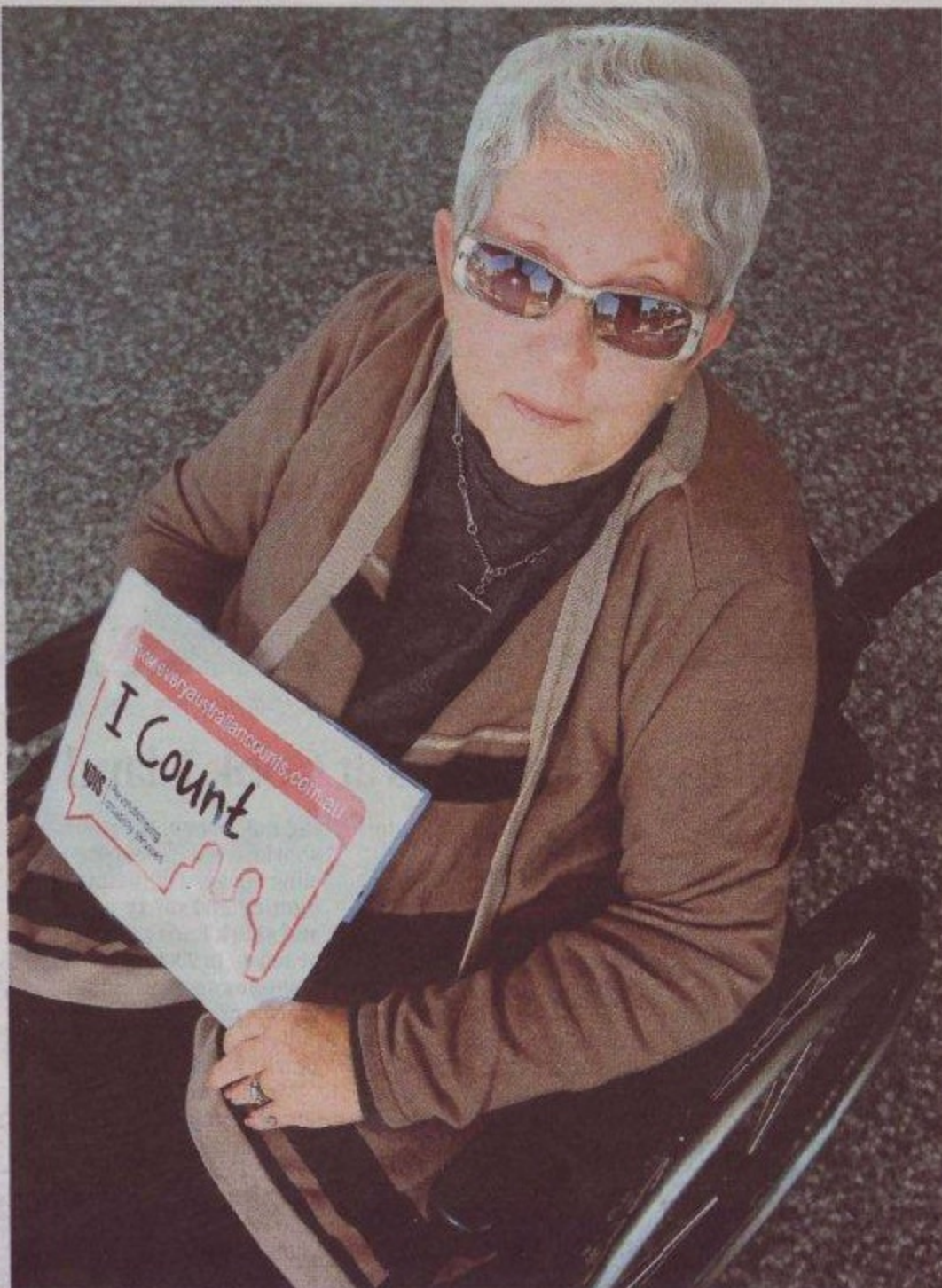
Mrs Elliot spoke very highly of her carers.

"I can't push hard enough that Care Connect and all the carers have been wonderful," she said.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK

E-mail: letters@mydailynews.com.au

Online: mydailynews.com.au  
SMS: 0428 634 025 (type TWEE followed by a space then your comment)



**SHE COUNTS:** Pam Elliot makes sure her voice is heard at the DisabiliTEA event to call for a new support system for people with a disability.

Photo: John Gass TWE020811care