

Addition to evidence given on 19 September – Jordana Goodman, Physical Disability Council of NSW

I am not sure where it should be inserted about there was one other issue additional to access and availability that came out in my survey, and that was regarding the safety of all modes of transport. I have copied two comments from the survey that I conducted: (I have not proof read these comments from the surveys)

Respondent No. 61 from the North Western region

Lives have been lost of people in wheelchairs because there are no state or national laws about safety of passengers in wheelchairs nor driver training. There are some insufficient guidelines and little training for taxis but it is not always the trained driver who drives the accessible cab. I have written to the DG of Transport NSW outlining same in detail but he said it was too big an issue. I would like to see something done nationally in line with that for baby capsules - also so that police can fine drivers who have not properly secured passengers in wheelchairs.

Respondent No.19 from the Gosford- Wyong region

The concerns that I have is the wheelchair accessibility to bus stops within the back streets. Most of the bus stops with the back streets are just a concrete block without an easement from the road to the bus stop where people can roll on to. The regional areas are very difficult to get access to a wheelchair accessible TAXI especially around school drop-off and pick-up times. At time this can be restraining in what you can and cannot do. Plus traveling in TAXIs can be rather expensive at times even with the use of vouchers. I think the voucher system needs to encounter raising the percentage as the maximum as well. The reason for this the percentage has not been look at since 1990s. July this year they raise the maximum rate from \$30 to \$60 this is well and good but the percentage hasn't change. So this your distances doesn't as much especially when the TAXIs go up with CPI on a yearly basis. This means that people who are on this scheme are not really gaining much. The train system also needs looking at for those that rely on portable ramps to get on and off trains . At times the messages don't get through at times. I think this is not ideal when you miss your stop due not having the ramp meeting you at the right station.

Respondent No. 57 from the Newcastle region

I would use public transport more if more regular services were available and also if the drives didn't drive so roughly. One of the drivers the passengers call the white knuckle ride because you need to hang on so tight your knuckles go White! This really is unacceptable. And also if my wheelchair could be anchored. It really isn't safe having to ride unanchored.

Respondent No. 13 from the Mid North Coast

Buses do not have safe /accessible drop off points which needs to be addressed.

Respondent No. 3 from the South West

The aisle way of coaches are not very wide and the steps in can be quite steep. There is also not much room between seats and in the toilet.

Respondent No. 53 from the Northern (Tamworth) Region

I have used the regional trains in the past to travel to Sydney for pleasure but, the ramp used to transfer from the platform into the train is dangerous for me and I no longer feel comfortable using this ramp. I have tried to get a safer ramp provided by the minister of transport for a few years but, it is still in progress even though there was going to be one here mid 2016.