

**Submission
No 20**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Ms Lesley Radford

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To Dr Carolyn Littlefair,

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself & friend [REDACTED]

We are both very frequent users of public transport in Brunyton Hunter Valley buses and trains. Our bus service is extremely poor. Buses are usually late even the 1st Bus of the day at 6:45am which doesn't pick up passengers on way from Maitland, this makes it very difficult for appointment times or impossible to meet train from Hamilton to Sydney where I have an extremely ill mother. Both my friend [REDACTED] and I are on the disability pension [REDACTED]

(2)

Obviously we both encounter numerous medical appointments, Drs, physio, hydro therapy pool, blood tests etc. No bus is supposed to move until all passengers are seated. This is not the case & we both carry letters to this effect to show drivers.

Really most drivers will not help you with shopping trolley or luggage either on to bus or under compartment on bus for storage.

We have limited buses on a Saturday & none on a Sunday.

We have no direct service to Newcastle even though since a timetable change October 2011 was being looked at and that new timetable was printed with errors. Drivers don't carry spare timetables you have to ring the Thornton or Singleton office and hope they will mail you one. Generally we don't have bus stop signs, seats or shelters.

Our Hunter Valley Bus service is known as Service Buses and can stop nearly anywhere to alight or pick-up though it is not usual for us to have drivers from the Raymond Terrace area who don't know our bus routes or direction & certainly not uncommon for passengers to have to ^{tell} drivers where to stop or set down which they will often debate not stop leaving passengers stranded when they have signalled the driver

(4)

Which is not good enough.
We have no bus service to
Sydney.
We have no bus service to
Cessnock. Even though Rovers Cessnock
bus service runs school buses
from Branston during the week
it depends on the driver if you
can get on.

Not one of our buses merges up
with state rail trains it is
not uncommon to be left waiting
for trains or buses for
connections.

We only have 3 trains per
day Mon - Fri & 2 trains on
weekends which is ridiculous.
Something desperately needs to
be done about our lack of
service, Branston township has
grown significantly over the
past number of years and
transport and commuters have had
no consideration what so ever.

Please reply.

