

**Submission
No 5**

**ACCESS TO TRANSPORT FOR SENIORS AND
DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE IN RURAL AND REGIONAL
NSW**

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Date Received: 18 June 2016

Access to Transport for Seniors and Disadvantaged People in Rural and Regional NSW

I will start my submission to this enquiry telling the committee about my own personal experience regarding accessing transport.

1/1. On at least on two occasions, I was taken to hospital per ambulance from my home in Narooma, to Moruya Hospital, which is about 40km away. After discharge, which was either late evening or early morning, I had to book a taxi to take me home. The last time I had to do this, it cost me \$115.00, due to the fact, the taxi driver had to make a return trip. I am sure that many people in many areas of this state, have had similar problems. I also point out that there is no bus service between the two towns.

Eurobodalla Shire Council run a Community Transport service, but they cannot transport people at short notice, so my suggestion is to:

1/2. Consult with Eurobodalla Council to see if an emergency transport system can be set up, which will mean volunteers prepared to do this on a roster system.

or

1/3.. Provide government partial or full rebates on taxi fares via IPTAAS, but you have to be living at least 200km from the destination. The problem with this is the wait period for re-imburement, and many pensioners have only their government pension to live on.

2/1. If patients in Narooma require and x-ray or CT scan, they have to travel to Moruya.

The two alternative are: Per community transport, who have to be given adequate notice and cost \$20.00 or drive your own car.

Seeing as people living in rural areas, are disadvantaged with higher fuel prices than in the larger population areas, such as Sydney and Wollongong and with no discounting, pensioners in particular are being disadvantaged. Again, the above problem would also apply in other rural communities, so my suggestion is, to provide a fuel discount card for pensioners to help reduce the cost of travel.

The above also applies to going to your local doctor, shopping, etc with the townships there is a very limited bus service.

Roger Hilton

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