

**Submission  
No 11**

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

**Organisation:** Kiama Municipal Council's Access Committee

**Name:** Ms Berryl Batten

**Position:**

**Date Received:** 12 July 2016

- 1/ Transport is an area of concern for elderly and disadvantaged members of Regional and Rural NSW
- 2/ Comments here on Health and Social needs of this group of citizens
- 3/ Community Transport Programs provided by local Councils cannot meet the demand.
- 4/ State and Federal funds are required to enable these services to be extended.  
DVA transport system as a model for the wider community.
- 5/ local Service Clubs valuable as a resource
- 6/ Economic sense of supporting people to remain living in their own communities

Transport is a major concern for the elderly and disadvantaged residents of Rural and Regional NSW.

Two areas of particular need are:

① Facilities necessary for the health and well being of the elderly and disadvantaged members of the communities such as Medical Centres, Pathology, Imaging, and Educational/Training centres, are often poorly served by Public transport and assisted modes of transport by family, friends, neighbours; limited

Regional and Rural Local Government is best placed to both identify problems, and provide support in their own areas and many do so within the limited resources available to them through Community Transport Programs.

With generous help from the local community scheduled Hospital Timetables can be maintained, specific medical appointments catered for, and local Bus and Taxi services used for disabled patients/students. Nonetheless, in all these areas demand exceeds the supply, and when necessary "but not urgent" help is required, it is beyond the capabilities of Councils to assist.

Community Transport does not have the resources to cover requests outside of standard hours/services. It is at this level of need that State or Federal initiatives could be developed. A Transport System similar to the one presently being used by the Dept of Veterans Affairs using Private Transport Services could alleviate

problems arising from lengthy waiting times for Ambulance  
Patrol Transport services, or, Ambulance Transport leading  
to costly, unnecessary overnight Hospital Admission.

② Equally important to the health and well being of elderly  
and disadvantaged people in Regional and Rural areas of NSW  
is the need for them to remain connected to their  
communities. Transport is an essential part of this process

Local Service Clubs such as Lions or Rotary are a  
valuable community resource in this regard. Government  
help within the terms of the Clubs' Charters would be a  
stimulus to increase the already important/varied  
contributions these groups make to their communities.  
Service Clubs have the vehicles and volunteers to help the  
elderly and disadvantaged members of their communities to  
attend local activities, sports programs, Churches, or simply  
visit old friends to keep in personal touch.

Such Public/Private interaction makes sound economic  
sense. Helping people to stay living in their own  
communities is a cheaper option than building and  
staffing more Care facilities for the vulnerable  
members of Regional and Rural NSW.

Beryl Baughen