

**Submission
No 16**

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

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Natalie Armstrong

Position:

Date Received: 15 July 2016

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBMISSION:

- Delegate population 300, **has no public transport**
- Delegate's population is predominately ageing
- Delegate does not have a Doctor, so needs transport to nearest Doctor/hospital in Bombala 38kms away.
- The change to the Train Link service from Bombala to Canberra has severely disadvantaged patrons.
- The large bus leaving Bombala at 6.55am and travelling cross country to Jindabyne adds another two hours to the trip to Canberra and the earlier start severely disadvantages those driving from another hour further south in the Shire. It is not really a safe route for large buses, being narrow and winding and subject to ice in winter.
- Our winters are severe and early morning travel in the dark on icy roads is dangerous particularly for older drivers.
- Some, but not all senior residents have licences and are capable of driving to Bombala but there is no safe parking space there to leave their car.

Delegate is a small rural town with a population of 350 people which does not have any Public Transport. It is a low socioeconomic area with a predominately ageing population. There is no Doctor in the town and people have to travel to Bombala 38kms away to see a GP and to Canberra for Specialist Services.. The Trainlink service from Bombala to Canberra was recently changed disadvantaging the mainly senior citizens who used it. It puts another two hours on to the journey and leaves so early that people who live in the Southern part of the Shire find it very difficult especially in winter. The cross country route via Jindabyne is really not suitable for buses, being narrow and winding and subject to icy patches.

Suggestion:

A small bus could link with the Trainlink at Nimmitabel one hour away from Delegate. This service comes up from the coast and travels via Nimmitabel, Cooma, stopping at Kingston Railway Station and the Jolimont Centre in Canberra every day of the week. This would be a much quicker and more convenient service especially for a number of young people who travel to Cooma to work in the Sheltered Workshop. It arrives at Nimmitabel at 9.10am and has a half hour stop there. School bus operators with licenses to carry others come to mind. This service from here could operate on the same days as the present inconvenient service, i.e. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In recent times older people are moving here from the cities, where they no longer feel safe and the added population will help our small town, but something has to be done to keep essential services in rural areas to make them liveable.