

**Submission
No 75**

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

Organisation: Coalfields NeighbourCare
Name: Mr Bill Parker
Position: Chief Executive Officer
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COALFIELDS NEIGHBOUR CARE INC.

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21 July 2016

The Chair
Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Access to Transport for seniors and Disadvantaged People in Rural and Regional NSW

Please find below our submission for the parliamentary committee in relation to this matter. Coalfields NeighbourCare is a not for profit community organization that provides entry level home care to residents of the Cessnock Community as well as providing around 12000 Community transport trips per annum.

Specific issues relating to the transport needs of seniors and disadvantaged people in rural and regional NSW;

Comment:

- Time restrictions for public transport i.e. not provided at the right times
- Location of public transport points makes it difficult for people to get from stop to medical or other appointments due to distance and Health Status
- Frequency and time span of Public Transport means that to make an appointment people would need to be out all day and they can be physically incapable
- Public transport linkages mean accessing multiple vehicles changes which is difficult for people due to physical capability
- When public transport is accessible and timely it is difficult to link from a person's home to public transport stop
- Late and weekend appointments are not possible due to timetable restrictions
- Disadvantaged people can't secure regular transport to isolated locations for training and employment purposes
- There are no provisions for after hours and weekend services by Community Transport providers
- There is a significant need to transport dialysis transports

Accessibility of current public transport services in rural and regional NSW;

- Covered above

Potential strategies to improve access, including better alignment between different modes of transport, available routes and timetabling generally;

- Community transport organizations could be funded to provide services after hours and where public transport timetables or viability is limited
- Some aged and disadvantaged need one on one support that can be provided by Community Transport that is not provided by Public Transport
- Fund Community Transports to provide weekend services and after hours services
- If funded, Community Transports could provide regular transport to isolated locations and after hour's appointments

This is a Home and Community Care Funded Project

*Providing Social Support Services to Frail Aged and Younger People with Disabilities & their Carers
in the Cessnock Local Government Area*



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- Funding for specific dialysis and similar specialized low acuity health related transports
- Community Transport could link more with bus routes and timetables on demand to provide an integrated, coordinated journey

Support that can be provided to seniors and disadvantaged people to assist with the costs of private transport where public transport is either unavailable or unable to meet the needs of these groups;

- As above

Yours Sincerely

Bill Parker
CEO
Coalfields NeighbourCare