
Re: LC 497 - REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

Question asked on 15 June 2023

Answer due on 6 July 2023

Farraway, Sam to the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

- (1) How many 2023 Regional Seniors Travel Card have been applied for as at 14 June 2023?
- (2) How many Regional Seniors Travel Cards have been applied for since the start of the program in 2020?
- (3) Will the Regional Seniors Travel Card be expanded to include Blue Mountains and Wollongong local government areas?
- (4) Will the extension of the Regional Seniors Travel Card be included in the September budget?
- (5) What is the cost break down of administering the Regional Seniors Travel card per card?
 - (a) Is there a cost per card?
- (6) Does the Regional Seniors Travel Card come under review in the Strategic Infrastructure Review?
- (7) Can a regional senior purchase a bottle of Fanta, cigarettes or a packet of lollies using the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
- (8) How many non fuel related items have been purchased using the Regional Seniors Travel Card in 2023?

ANSWER

I am advised

- (1) 320,492 Regional Seniors Travel Card have been applied for as at 14 June 2023.
- (2) 1,374,329 Regional Seniors Travel Cards have been applied for since the start of the program in 2020.

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(3) The intent of the program is to provide assistance to eligible individuals who live in areas where there are fewer public transport options. The definition of regional NSW is consistent with what is used for Restart

NSW – local government areas outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

(4) Decisions made as part of the State Budget will be communicated as part of the budget.

(5) Administration costs have a variable element to them. However, these costs are around 16 per cent of the scheme costs. This includes items such as:

- providing customer service through Service NSW and our banking provider, including managing and hosting website application systems and providing call centre support for both the card and scheme enquiries; and
- production and distribution of Regional Seniors Travel Cards (including postage).

(6) The Regional Seniors Travel Card does not come under the Strategic Infrastructure Review.

(7) The Regional Seniors Travel Card can be used for travel-related purchases. It has been restricted for use at retailers based on their merchant category code. Merchant category codes are used to classify businesses by the types of goods and services they provide. If those retailers sell additional non-transport related goods, it is possible for scheme participants to add additional items to their transactions. This is against the intent of the scheme and the scheme rules.

(8) \$1,702,937.28 worth of non-fuel retailer-related items have been purchased using the Regional Seniors Travel Card in 2023. This expenditure includes taxi fares, bus and rail fares, and coach tickets as examples.

Sincerely,

Jenny Aitchison MP

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

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