

Wheelchair Access Taxi Scheme

Thank you for the forum held in the Tram Shed at Launceston.
It was disappointing so few people turned up.
It was at short notice. Approx 20 Feb

My thoughts on the Scheme

The Wheelchair Taxi Scheme is not completely broken.
It needs updating making it more affordable to use Wheelchair Transport.

To use Wheelchair Transport is an expensive way to travel
At 50 Km, with WAT Fare Subsidy, Cost is \$70. Tariff 1 Fare \$89.
After that there is very little assistance.
I believe that this is only during working hours.

It is more at night and weekends, the cost for these times was not covered in the handouts notes.

I am of the believe, that it cost \$60 there and back from Eskleigh at Perth to Showgrounds at Invermay on Sunday with the present WAT Scheme

Most persons that use WAT Scheme, it is the only mode of transport.

These people in most cases are **unable to use Buses** with the Need to travel in their Wheelchair or on their Scooter. Even if public transport is available, the wheelchair users are unable to use it.

Not using the Wheelchair Access Taxi, means that they remain in their living quarters. Causing the person to get less outdoor activity, which will lead to less mental activity and to one's mental and physical Health. This will cost the Health System more money with more Doctors visits, more tablets and Hospital stays, especially Mental health Departments.

Discrimination arises from the lack of people with major disability being able to leave their residence to do thing like others do, Visit people, go to Events.

Living in a wheelchair is very restrictive causing frustrating due to the isolation. So I disagree with the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner that there are no Discrimination. One's right to be equal to others, under the Human Rights.

Make the Scheme more accessible by the Wheelchair community.

The Wheelchair Access Taxi Scheme should be increased from **60/40 to 75/25**.
[25 % paid by the Wheelchair user].

The Wheelchair Access Taxi Scheme should be increased from
a max of **\$30 to \$70** Cost per trip Minimum .
At 100 Km WAT Fare \$170. Tariff 1 Fare \$179 now.

Even with \$75 Subsidy it would be \$12 4 with WAT Subsidy
A bus fare wouldn't be that amount.

There could be a special allowance for longer return trips especially people to get to appointments etc (eg:- a trip to Hobart and back), to receive medical treatment. To go on holidays, or to see Family, Or to be part of State Forum not held in local area.

More and more, the Health department cutting costs reduces local services

A trip to Specialist or specialist treatment means a trip from Launceston to Hobart or from Devonport to Launceston Etc.

If one has to have regular treatment where one travels some distance, then the max Fee should be similar cost as a bus fare. Referrals from Doctors would cover the need for the trips.

It would be cheaper than an ambulance, as the ambulance has two people manning it, plus taking the ambulance out of service for local service.

Plus the person can be mobile when getting to the treatment place, saving more costs.

The SAFTEY of the persons using the service and the driver.

I believe the **Lifts** are safer than **Ramps**.

It is more so with wet weather. The ramp becomes more slippery. Feeling unsafe going up or down the ramp is a real concern. The angle of the ramps, are steep, giving the feeling of tipping over backwards out of the wheelchair.

The ramps are not very wide and the sides are not very high, to stop one from going over the edge.

A trip in a wheelchair, **in a lot of areas are dangerous** [eg:- crossing the roads from footpath to footpath] as they are not designed for Wheelchair so a trip in a Wheelchair Access Taxi is much safer.

Wheelchairs are to be used on the Footpaths not on the roads. A lot of ramps on footpaths are generally too narrow and too steep. These ramps made primary for children pushers and prams. Wheelchairs are wider than children prams, causing dangerous conditions.

If getting about was easier and cheaper, then it would cost the Government less money in the long run. Less cost less medical treatment, therefore less cost to the Government.

Because a lot of the people with Major Disabilities do voluntary work to feel part of Society and to mix with others. The cost of transport, to do voluntary work, is a burden. Being part of an active group is very good one's morale. Just sitting at home is very bad for one's mental health, causing more trips to doctors and medication.

A lot of the people with major disabilities live on their own or in places like Eskleigh and Nursing Homes [Aged care].