



Speech by

LINDY NELSON-CARR

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard 14 April 1999

TAXI SUBSIDIES

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (10.15 a.m.): The Beattie Government's announcement last week of an increase in the number of people eligible for taxi subsidies in Queensland was welcome news in Townsville. The taxi subsidy scheme already assists more than 38,000 people in Queensland through the provision of a 50% subsidy on taxi fares. But now, with the plans to expand the scheme, people with chronic medical disorders, including mental conditions, will be catered for.

This revised criteria, beginning on 1 May, will assist many of my constituents who currently have difficulty utilising other forms of public transport. I often had constituents call me because they did not fit the criteria of the current scheme, especially elderly people living in residential nursing homes who are still more than capable of living independently but who often require transport to do some things for themselves. This additional funding of \$600,000 set by the Beattie Government is another example of a can-do Government identifying the needs of the community and acting proactively.

My electorate is middle Australian families, schools, TAFE and hospitals and has all the issues that accompany suburban life. I applaud this Government's commitment to increasing access to public transport by delivering services for all. The people whom I represent include the elderly and people with a mental condition. The Beattie Government has given mobility and quality of life back to this section of the community—people who are often forgotten or not identified as a needs group for this particular scheme.

Quality of life and increased mobility for many will be enhanced under this scheme. Once again I congratulate this Government, particularly Queensland Transport and the Queensland Department of Health, for successfully providing a subsidy for those people neglected in the past.
