

Question on Notice

No. 698

Asked on 10 May 2006

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to road and rail transport—

Will the Government of Queensland confer on Extremely Disabled War Veterans Association members identical concessions to those given to members in Victoria and New South Wales; if not, why not?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for her question -

Queensland Transport (QT) is currently reviewing its statewide concessions policy. I can confirm that the issues raised by this Question on Notice are being considered in this review, which I expect to conclude later this year.

The Queensland Government provides a wide range of public transport concessions to people who are in need because of age, ability or other circumstances and the budget is over \$100m each year and rising. Our approach is to target the funding available to the areas of most need and our concessions apply to many people who are transport disadvantaged.

The Government also supports many people with a disability to access medical and other essential services through the Taxi Subsidy Scheme which has an annual budget of about \$11m. Additionally, the Government supports student travel under the School Transport Assistance Scheme with an annual budget of approximately of \$140m.

The Government's policy framework provides free travel on urban buses and trains at all times to holders of a Vision Impaired Travel Pass and a 50% concession to holders of a:

- Gold Repatriation Health Card (Gold Card) which is issued by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) which is issued by Centrelink or the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- Queensland Seniors Card which is issued by the Queensland Department of Communities.

It should also be noted that the primary responsibility for the welfare of veterans lies with the Commonwealth. The Queensland Government would welcome the provision of additional funds from the Federal Government's record budget surplus that would allow the expansion of public transport concessions for veterans.