

Question on Notice

No. 811

Asked on Thursday, 24 May 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise progress on improving passenger services for people, particularly those with mobility issues who reside in my electorate, travelling to The Prince Charles Hospital and other health services on The Prince Charles Hospital campus?

ANSWER:

The State Government made an election commitment to improve services between Westfield Chermside and the Prince Charles Hospital for people with mobility issues. While the Prince Charles Hospital is well serviced by public transport in the surrounding corridors of Hamilton Road, Webster Road, Rode Road and Hilltop Avenue, existing bus services provide poor access inside the grounds due to various operational constraints.

The State Government has committed to a six-month trial of a FlexiLink service. The trial will include the operations of a shuttle service every 30 minutes on weekdays between 8.30am and 5.30pm, with a maxi-taxi, wheelchair accessible vehicle. The taxi will service three locations inside the Prince Charles Hospital grounds, as well as the Chermside bus station and shopping centre at the air-conditioned taxi lounge.

The service is planned to commence on 25 June 2007. It is anticipated the trial will provide a great learning experience as TransLink implements more flexible transport solutions throughout South East Queensland. Continuation of the FlexiLink service will depend on patronage of the service.

For the trial period TransLink will sell books of tickets to the operator in advance, much like the Casino promotional ticket. The operator will purchase TransLink tickets for an upfront flat fare, equivalent to a TransLink zone 1 single fare, of \$2.30. The cost of operating the service is estimated to be about \$40,000 for the six month trial.

Passengers with valid TransLink tickets for travel to zone 3 (Prince Charles Hospital and Westfield Chermside) will not be required to purchase a ticket. It is likely that most passengers will already be transferring from TransLink bus services and will have a valid ticket. This ticket will not be valid to transfer onto other TransLink services.