

Question on Notice

No. 483

Asked on Tuesday 2 April 2019

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Is the Minister aware of Queenslanders with disabilities, including vision impairment, being denied access to Uber, or Personalised Transport Services, and what does the Minister intend to do about this?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Moggill for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring vulnerable members of the community have access to affordable and accessible personalised transport options.

The personalised transport reforms have been about ensuring Queenslanders have safe, accessible, affordable and accountable personalised transport services. They are also about ensuring Queensland's personalised transport system is well placed to respond to change and innovation in the future.

Under the reforms, a number of protections were established to ensure customers with disabilities had ongoing access to affordable and accessible personalised transport. These included the retention of maximum fare protections for taxi subsidy scheme (TSS) members, and the introduction of a \$20 incentive payment for drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis to prioritise bookings from wheelchair-dependent TSS members.

It was also determined that taxis would continue to exclusively provide services to TSS members for the foreseeable future, as taxis are the only personalised transport provider currently complying with the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002*.

It is important to note that people who are members of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) may be able to access subsidised travel in personalised transport vehicles through NDIS registered providers.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has recently released the *Disability Action Plan 2018–2022*, which outlines the department's ongoing commitment to improve accessibility for people with disability using the passenger transport system in Queensland.