

Question on Notice

No. 485

Asked on 20 April 2023

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to old age pensioners being on a fixed income and not being immune to the cost of living crisis currently affecting Australia. Given New South Wales recognises the plight of pensioners and provides them access to free motor vehicle registration—

Will the Minister advise if Queensland will consider doing the same?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Traeger for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing financial relief to pension concession and eligible senior card holders whenever possible. In the 2022–23 budget, the Palaszczuk Government committed \$6.786 billion to fund concessions in Queensland. This represents a significant government and taxpayer commitment to improving the accessibility and affordability of a diverse range of services. The majority of pensioners have access to a range of concessions, including a reduction in vehicle registration fees and public transport travel.

Regarding vehicle registration concessions, the Palaszczuk Government provide these to a range of groups including holders of the Pensioner Concession Card and Queensland Seniors Card. These concessions are aimed at improving access to travel for pensioners, seniors and persons with a disability by providing a reduced rate of registration fees. For most eligible card holders, a concession for a four-cylinder vehicle would reduce the 12-month registration fee from \$348.70 to \$174.35 from 1 July 2022.

In respect to comparing the fees payable for pension concession card holders in Queensland to other states, such as New South Wales (NSW), for registration fee comparisons, consideration should also be given to the full registration requirements in that state. While NSW does not require pensioners to pay registration fees, pensioners are still required to pay the full Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance premium, which is generally more expensive than an equivalent CTP premium in Queensland. The cost for a pensioner in maintaining their vehicle registration in NSW in many cases is comparable to Queensland.