

Northern Transport Links  
LINK Community Transport  
182 Widford Street  
Broadmeadows  
3047

The Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

04/03/2009

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Inquiry into the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services**

**Background:**

Northern Transport Links (NTL) is a Transport Connections project funded by the Victorian State Government to:

- Identify transport need in communities,
- Identify existing transport options and;
- Work with those communities to make better use of existing transport options for the benefit of the whole community.
- Work in communities who experience transport disadvantage,
- NTL is a partnership based project that works across the municipalities of Hume and Whittlesea. Partners include DOT and DPCD, the City of Whittlesea, LINK Community Transport, Hume City Council and various community agencies including Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Melbourne City Mission.

**Recommendation are made under options:**

- c. an assessment of the benefits of public passenger transport, including integration with bicycle and pedestrian initiatives;
- d. measures by which the Commonwealth Government could facilitate improvement in public passenger transport services and infrastructure;

### **Recommendations:**

1. Consider the impact of toilet placement at train stations
  - Ensure access to toilets on both platforms of each train station where appropriate
  - Fund creation of single platforms where appropriate
2. Ensure more seating at stations, bus stops and along walking paths
3. Standardize bus driver training to ensure that older residents are safely able to use public transport
4. Increase numbers of seats set aside for older residents

### **Evidence of need:**

Older people in Broadmeadows have reported;

- Difficulty associated with lack of access to toilets by those who may be on diuretics, have bladder issues or be slow to move,
- Difficulty crossing the train platform to get to toilets, sometimes having to make the choice to miss the train or use the toilet,
- Bus drivers don't give older people enough time to seat themselves, for example one older person broke her elbow on the bus, after a fall caused by driver moving off before she was seated,
- Reluctance to use the bus because of these incidence, leading to increased risk of social isolation,
- Want driver training, more signage on Buses and more allocated seating at the front of the bus,
- Want to be able to move safely between public transport and activity centres.

This inquiry is an opportunity to address the lack of transport options for older residents that place them at risk of becoming socially isolated. This inquiry is also an opportunity to consider the physical constraints associated with aging as they impact on transport options.

Further information relating to this submission can be obtained by contacting the NTL project coordinator.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Abigail Dent  
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