

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie

Transport Minister

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More Reliable Taxis For Passengers In Wheelchairs

People in wheelchairs will have greater certainty of taxis arriving with a Government Taxi Subsidy Scheme approved by cabinet.

Transport Minister, Delia Lawrie today announced a \$10 bonus for drivers of multi purpose taxis who service people in wheelchairs.

“People in wheelchairs have great difficulty getting taxis to pick them up, often they have no other means of transport so it’s essential drivers respond to these calls,” said Ms Lawrie.

“In the past, in some cases a person in a wheelchair can book a taxi for an important event hours in advance and still no-one turns up, leaving them stranded at home.”

“Offering a \$10 bonus compensates drivers for the time it takes to load and unload a passenger in a wheelchair and gives a real incentive to take the fare.”

“The bonus means drivers have the potential to substantially increase their income by picking up people in wheelchairs.”

“The changes to the scheme are designed to be win win, passengers in wheelchairs will be provided with an essential service without causing a disadvantage to the drivers who pick them up.”

The scheme will be subsidised through a 15 percent rise in standard taxi licence costs and a 1.8 percent increase in taxi fares.

This increase will be part of an overall rise in fares of 4.31 percent in Darwin and 5.69 percent in regional areas due to increasing fuel costs.

“The Northern Territory Taxi Council requested the fare rise and an independent review by the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Board endorsed the increase due to the rising cost of fuel, “said Ms Lawrie.

The changes to fares and the subsidy scheme will be effective from December.

Contact: Bethaney Jensen 0423 593 999