

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Infrastructure Planning and Logistics:

Subsidies for Remote Travel

Please advise how the Government will assist residents of Nhulunbuy electorate or other remote electorates with the high cost of travel and whether the Government will provide subsidies?

The Northern Territory Government assists with maintaining and upgrading airside infrastructure at 70 remote aerodromes throughout the Northern Territory. Government also funds the essential Aerodrome Reporting Officer role at 18 aerodromes, to assist operators with meeting Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulatory requirements. The Northern Territory Government will continue to maintain these aerodromes to support vital air access to these communities.

The Northern Territory Government also assists with funding or subsidising travel for resident and community clients to access support, services and opportunities through, for example, the Department of Education's Student Travel Scheme, the Department of Health's Patient Assistance Travel Scheme and Territory Families' NT Concession and NT Seniors Recognition Schemes.

The Northern Territory Government has also supported remote and regional passenger bus transport operators to provide scheduled services through the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics' Remote Passenger Transport Program. The bus services have been operated on a commercial basis, with funding support provided through a rolling Program. Services supported by the Program have included a number of long distance services which operate from Alice Springs and Katherine to outlying communities, as well as a Tiwi Islands and Gove Town Bus Service.

The Australian Government subsidises freight and passenger air services to over 90 Northern Territory remote communities through its Remote Air Services Subsidy Scheme. The Australian Government also provides funding for upgrades to remote Northern Territory aerodromes through its Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme.