



## Petition

Registration No.	17
Title	REINSTATE SENIORS BUS CONCESSION
Presented on	17 June 2013
Presented by	MS FINOCCHIARO (Member for Drysdale)
Referred to	Minister for Transport (Hon Adam Giles MLA)
Date referred	2 July 2013
Response due	17 October 2013
Response received	23 July 2013
Response presented	20 August 2013

### Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

That Senior Northern Territorians are important to all Territorians and deserve recognition of the issues they raise.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

You immediately reinstate the Seniors bus concession

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

### Response

I can advise that fares across the public bus network in the Northern Territory are low when compared to other jurisdictions. Importantly, the fare structure in the Territory is relatively less complex and does not employ a zonal fare based system where the cost of a ticket increases the further a person travels on the network.

Government's around Australia heavily subsidise public transport and cost recovery levels vary substantially from state to state. In the Northern Territory, cost recovery levels are very low, however it is estimated that the new fare structure introduced this year will generate in the order of an additional \$2 million in revenue annually.

This income has allowed the Government to further invest in improving public transport services through initiatives such as the implementation of new bus routes in Darwin as of 1 July 2013, free Wi-Fi on buses and investing in a new ticketing system.

Whilst it is not anticipated that fares will be reduced, a new ticketing system will provide the opportunity to consider other fare types, which will allow more flexibility in setting fare types and considering distance and zonal arrangements.

The one dollar concessional fare is low and extremely good value when compared to other jurisdictions and the distances that can be travelled across the Darwin bus network. The one dollar fare remains a significant discount for pensioners and contributes to Government's commitment to improving public transport services across the Territory.