



## Petition

Registration No.	19
Title	Interstate and overseas travel concession
Presented on	Ms Finocchiaro (Member for Drysdale)
Presented by	27 June 2013
Referred to	Minister for Health (Hon. Robyn Lambley MLA)
Date referred	27 June 2013
Response due	17 October 2013
Response received	6 August 2013
Response to be 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 reverse the proposed changes to interstate and overseas travel concession

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

### Response

The Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme (NTPCCS) provides concessions to pensioners, carers and seniors to assist them with the cost of living. It is not a seniors' specific concession scheme. The objectives of NTPCCS are to assist these groups of Territorians to meet the costs of essential services. Concessions are provided on power, water, sewerage, vehicle registration, drivers' licences, local Council and garbage rates, spectacles and public bus travel.

In addition to the cost of living concessions, seniors (women over 60, men over 65) are entitled to a travel concession as a means to encourage them to remain in the Northern Territory during their retirement years by assisting them to maintain contact with friends and family who reside interstate or overseas. On 5 April 2013, changes were announced to the travel concession available under NTPCCS. Members are now eligible for \$500 every two years or the cost of the actual travel, whichever is the lesser amount. The travel concession is no longer accumulative and remains at \$500 every two years. A member's next concession will fall due two years from the commencement date of travel for the member.

The changes which came into effect on 1 July 2013, still allow for eligible members to travel interstate or overseas. It also still allows for a family member or friend to be brought to the Northern Territory. The provision of interstate and overseas travel is not a concession provided by any other State or Territory Government in Australia.