



Submission to ESCV DRAFT Taxi Fare Review Report 2007/08

LINK Community Transport (LINK) provides a range of transport services to people with a disability and frail aged citizens within the Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne.

LINK's feedback specifically pertains to Sections 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 of the Draft Taxi Fare Review Report.

LINK endorses all of the recommendations within Sections 9.1 and 9.2. In particular, LINK recommends that the maximum trip subsidy and subsidy cap be increased significantly for people that reside in rural, regional and interface areas of Victoria due to the longer travel distances often required in these areas.

LINK also notes that the cost of administering the MPTP program and the number of trips being undertaken has reduced by 11.5 % and 20 % respectively over the past 4 years at a time when the population is ageing. This anomaly should be noted and responded to with changes to the MPTP such that people who really need the service can access it.

With regard to Section 9.3 of the Draft Report, LINK supports the recommendation for a review of the role of community transport services in reducing transport disadvantage and increasing mobility options for members of the community. LINK recommends that the DOT lead the review and that it is holistic in approach, identifying the complementary roles that taxis, public transport and community transport play in meeting the mobility needs of people who have a disability and the frail aged. Any review of community transport should incorporate metropolitan, interface, regional and rural areas.

LINK supports the suggestion made in the report (section 9.3) that taxis could provide scheduled or on demand public transport type services in interface, rural and regional areas of Victoria.