

PUBLIC TRANSPORT — PENSIONERS

860. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the extension of free public transport to Seniors Card holders and aged and disability pensioners after 7.00 pm and before 6.00 am and to the estimate that an additional 145 000 trips a year will be made.

- (1) What is the basis of that calculation?
- (2) What is the anticipated additional cost of this initiative?
- (3) Given that many of these persons are vulnerable, what additional security measures will be taken to ensure their safety?
- (4) What is the cost of those additional security measures?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

The Liberal–National government continues to support Western Australia Seniors Card holders, pensioners and carers through the further extension of free public transport. Previously, seniors SmartRider holders were eligible for free travel between 9.00 am and 3.30 pm on weekdays and all day on weekends and public holidays. The extension of free travel to include the period between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am on weekdays will provide these passengers with increased opportunity to experience our transforming city and remain involved in the community.

- (1) The estimated 145 000 trips is based on the known boardings by seniors and pensioners that occurred between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am on weekdays during 2014.
- (2) The expected cost of forgoing these 145 000 trips was estimated at \$176 249 a year based on 2014 fare prices, excluding GST.
- (3) In respect of Transperth bus services, Transperth already maintains a heavy presence of security services for its evening and night-time services. Therefore, no additional security measures are being introduced as a result of this strategy, noting that no additional trips or services are required. With regard to Transperth train services, again noting that no additional trips or services are being provided, the Public Transport Authority's current complement of transit officers, who are rostered across the urban rail network and are assisted by contracted MSS Security revenue protection staff, will continue to provide a significant security presence on board trains and at train stations each day.
- (4) Not applicable.