

TAXI USERS' SUBSIDY SCHEME

283. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the eligibility criteria for the taxi users' subsidy scheme.

Given that the current criteria does not recognise short to medium periods of a condition or a disability that may deem a sufferer unfit to drive, will the minister review the eligibility criteria with a view to recognising that epilepsy is one such condition that from time to time will render people unfit to drive, in particular those in areas with no or limited public transport and where the high cost of a taxi service for daily living will force people to remain isolated?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. While I share what I think is an obvious concern for people who may be inconvenienced with their transport options by episodic and/or short-term conditions, the fact is the taxi user subsidy scheme applies to people with a permanent disability. There is no intention to review the eligibility criteria for the taxi user subsidy scheme at this time.