

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT — PATRONAGE FIGURES

2385. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Transport

I refer to the provision of free public transport to Western Australian seniors, aged and disability support pensioners during non-peak times, and ask —

- (1) Has there been an increase in the utilisation of public transport by seniors, aged and disability pensioners following the introduction of the free travel entitlements in April 2009 (please provide relevant figures)?
- (2) Does the Government consider this scheme a success?
- (3) Will the scheme be continued into the future?
- (4) Will the scheme be extended to cover any other user groups?
- (5) Will the times Western Australian seniors, aged and disability support pensioners are entitled to free public transport be extended in the future?
- (6) What public feedback has the Minister, the Public Transport Authority, or Transperth received regarding the scheme?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
In the ten months to April 2010 of the financial year 2009-10, total boardings by seniors, aged and disability pensioners have totalled 5 976 317. It is projected that the total boardings for seniors, aged and disability pensioners for this entire year will reach 8 085 000.
- (2)-(3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) The current free travel scheme and times are working very well and serve to move demand away from the busy peak periods as was the intention, therefore, no changes in free travel times are planned.
- (6) Very positive support.