

MULTIPURPOSE TAXIS - PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Petition

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [9.06 am] - by leave: I apologise for missing the call, Madam Deputy Speaker. I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say that Western Australians with disabilities who must rely on Multi Purpose Taxis for personal transport are being discriminated against.

My name is Paul Fisher. I have relied on Multi Purpose Taxis since 1998 and have had several experiences with Multi Purpose Taxis not turning up. Recently I visited a tavern and asked the manager to call a MPT for me at 9.30 pm on a Saturday evening when I wanted to leave. I did this deliberately because I knew the manager would be able to clearly explain which driveway to pull into. At 11 pm the Multi Purpose Taxi still hadn't arrived, so I asked one of the tavern staff to ring back. I asked another staff to ring dispatch for me again at 12 pm. By 1 am I still hadn't been picked up, so I used my own mobile to ring the Multi Purpose Taxis again and then had to sit on drive way until 1.30 because the pub had to close. On another occasion I ordered a Multi Purpose Taxi to collect two passengers using wheelchairs. When the taxi driver arrived I was advised that only one person would be taken to their chosen destination. My friend and I were therefore forced to wait for another taxi to arrive. These are just two of the very frustrating experiences I have had with the Multi Purpose Taxi service which also could have put my personal security at risk.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to ensure that the Western Australian government urgently addresses the inadequacy of the existing Multi Purpose Taxi service by requiring all taxis in Western Australia to have the capacity to transport people of all abilities, including people who need to travel in their wheelchair. Only the introduction of a universally accessible taxi fleet will ensure all Western Australians have equal access to taxi services.

The petition bears five signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

[See petition 254.]