

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Airfares to the Kimberley Region

From: Ann Hobbs
Sent: Thursday, 27 July 2017 12:07 PM
To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing
Subject: Airfares to the Kimberley Region

Hi,

I am a local travel agent in Kununurra and I have been doing this for 10 years.

Our airfares are incredibly high as you have seen, I receive calls from people in all different circumstances who are affected by our high prices.

1. Holiday makers- for a family to get to a capital city to leave the country or visit other parts of our own country the price of these flights alone are generally the highest cost. Before even starting the next part of the journey to their destination.
2. Distress flights- most people that live in our region have immediate family who live in other parts of the country, in time of distress and last minute flights need to be booked passengers are looking into the thousands, this is stopping people from seeing their elderly before they pass away, or being there for family in time of need as sometime a loan/line of credit is needed to be able to leave Kununurra especially in the peak season.
3. We as locals already have higher costs for most essential items, such as rent, food, fuel, then on top of many cannot afford the luxury of travel especially at the prices they are now.
4. I have seen many people not be able to attend business development due to the high costs of getting their staff there. We are isolated already.
5. In the wet season the option to drive out can be taken away as roads are closed, leaving flights the only option and again prices go up quickly as lots of people are needing to leave.

I ask that these prices be looked at.

As an agent I have looked into the most fully flexible airfares to get out of Kununurra. Our only regular service which operates every day to our capital city of Perth is the route via Broome. There are no daily direct flights. The highest price on a fare through Broome to connect to Perth is just under \$4000! Imagine if you had to purchase this flight last minute to see a dying family member, many do it, and it adds to the stress people are already under.

We live in a beautiful area and it is a shame that some people cannot afford to visit due to the price, but it is even more of a shame that locals are having to pay such disgraceful prices to get to a capital city for emergencies.

Please keep this in mind when looking at the fare prices.

Regards, Ann Hobbs



Ann Hobbs- Travel Partners North West
Independent Travel Consultant
Avis Travel Agent Scholarship Of Excellence, Best In Australia 2013

Address: PO BOX 1551, KUNUNURRA WA 6743
Facebook: www.facebook.com/travelpartnersnorthwest
Website: www.travelpartnersnorthwest.com.au