

Jessica Shaw MLA
Sean L'Estrange MLA
Yaz Mubarakai MLA
Terry Redman MLA

Dear Committee,

RE: Regional Airfares in Western Australia

I'm writing to you regarding the extremely high cost of airfares locals such as myself face in Kununurra and the North West. My submission is based on personal experiences which I'm sure other residents have also experienced.

I currently live in Kununurra and have done so for the past 3 years. During this time, I have seen the prices for airfares continue to increase to the point where it is cheaper to fly overseas than it is to fly from Kununurra to Perth. The most recent issue in which I have been affected by the flight prices was when the Kununurra Netball Association were hoping to enter a senior's team in North West Champs, a netball carnival that ran in Karratha this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend as it was going to cost the team of 10 and coach \$15,000 in travel costs to fly to the competition. This was due to the cost of flights to Perth and back then the flight costs to get to Karratha from Perth and not mentioning the total travel time with layovers 40 hours! It was around \$1350 per team member which was far too expensive for the association to cover even with fundraising.

Prior to this my father fell extremely ill and was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. It was financially impossible for me to fly to Perth on a regular basis to visit and be with him. This unfortunately led to me not being by his bedside when he passed and having to ask for friends and family to help pay for a flight home so that I could be there for the funeral arrangements. This is something I must live with every day. The flights to get to Perth in April 2016 were \$790 one way. How can this price be justified for a three-hour flight when you can fly Perth to Melbourne for \$129?? It makes absolutely no sense.

This issue affects residents daily and needs to be addressed and I hope that this inquiry makes a difference.

Many Thanks,
Karley Allen