

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Kalgoorlie air fares.

From: Allison

Sent: Thursday, 31 August 2017 7:17 PM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing <laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Kalgoorlie air fares.

I would like to report my experience earlier this year as an example of how rural residents can be disadvantaged by inflated air fares.

In mid March I had to have knee replacement surgery. I approached PATS for support to cover costs to and from Perth. I was prepared to travel to Perth by train but requested air fare return rather than the 7 hour trip by train or private car. I had been warned about the pain associated with knee replacement surgery. This request was refused. I can understand that this funding is limited and must cover many people from the country forced to leave home (and support) because the expertise is not available in some areas.

I decided I had no alternative other than covering the gap and flying back to Kalgoorlie. As it turned out, the train was unable to run at the time due to a freight derailment. Busses were provided... I doubt I could have handled the stairs, cramped conditions and bumpy ride over the extended period it would take to get home. The hour flight was ordeal enough.

At that time I was still working part time. I have since retired and face having the second knee replaced - once the memory of the pain/ experience subsides sufficiently. I hope I will be able to afford a flight home again.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to state the impact of my (and others) experience of high air fares.

Allison Bruce

Sent from my SAMSUNG Galaxy S7 on the Telstra Mobile Network