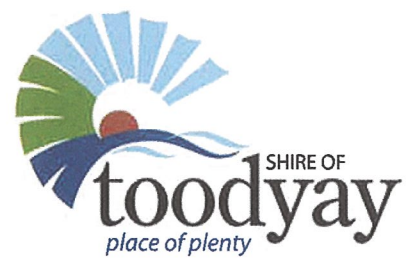
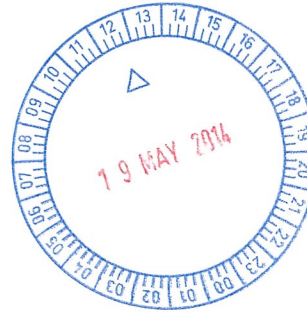


Our Ref: SS:MR ICR26739  
HLT1 / OCR19679



Ms Lauren Mesiti  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

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Dear Committee

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY - Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)**

The Shire of Toodyay is writing on behalf of the residents and ratepayers of the Shire who we feel are unfairly disadvantaged in comparison to neighbouring Shires and discouraged from seeking needed medical care by difficulties relating to transport.

Toodyay has a median age amongst its residents almost ten years above the state and national average despite having no residential aged care facilities. It has instead a large percentage of independently living seniors residing in their own homes with either no or limited assistance from services such as Silver Chain. There is therefore a high need for medical care including specialist services.

In contrast to this Toodyay is serviced by a branch of the Wheatbelt GP Network augmented by a visiting Podiatrist, Diabetes Educator, Dietician and local physiotherapy, pathology and psychology services. There is no hospital, the town is not visited by Medical Specialists.

The nearest visiting specialists are at Northam Hospital, which while only 25km away can only be reached by car or a combination of once daily train service (subject to availability, booked 24hr in advance) and taxi, the hospital being more than 2km from the Railway Station. This option provides access to a limited range of specialists and radiology services.

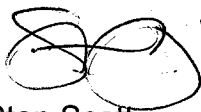
For anything beyond this residents must travel to Perth. Residents of Northam and York both enjoy special arrangements with regard to the PATS Scheme, while having better access to medical services in their own town: while Toodyay residents are ineligible under the PATS Scheme, in spite of having less local access to medical services. Public transport between both Toodyay

and Perth, and Northam and Perth is severely restricted, both towns are served by the same line and schedules. While Toodyay is 10 kilometres closer to Perth than both Northam and York the difference in road conditions between the Great Eastern Highway and Toodyay Road negate this advantage, instead creating longer travel times for Toodyay residents.

In the light of the above we feel that Toodyay residents should be included under the same special arrangements extended to residents of Northam and York with regard to assisted travel and accommodation under the PATS Scheme.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact me on (08) 9574 2258.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stan Scott', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Stan Scott  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

13 May 2014