

METROPOLITAN TRAIN STATIONS — ACCESSIBILITY RAMPS

600. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to accessibility ramps and lift systems located at metropolitan train stations.

- (1) Are all lifts at metropolitan train stations suitable for use by all motorised wheelchairs, motorised mobility scooters and ambulance stretchers?
- (2) If no to (1), which stations are not accessible?
- (3) Is the minister aware that people with disability are being forced to travel great distances in the hope of finding a suitable ramp and lift system in order to utilise our public transport system?
- (4) Will the government rectify this problem by having all railway stations retrofitted with both a ramp system and suitably sized lifts?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Public Transport Authority lift facilities, where provided at train stations, exceed the current relevant Australian Standard—1735.12—that provides for wheelchairs, bicycles and prams. The standard does not reflect the many varieties of mobility vehicles available. The PTA is cognisant of this requirement and is currently undertaking an upgrade of lift and escalator facilities on the Joondalup line at a cost of \$7 million, which includes the widening of lift doors. In addition, the PTA will ensure that its station design guidelines incorporate this need for when future stations are built across the network. Ambulance stretchers can be used either in a lift or on an escalator at train stations.
- (3)–(4) Transperth has a process in place to support all people with a disability to access any train station on the network. Persons requiring assistance can contact Transperth by telephone on 1800 800 022, and should do so at least one hour prior to their travel time. Transperth can then ensure that a customer service officer is available at the passenger's preferred station to assist them to access train services. This assistance includes the provision of ramps to cross platform–train gaps and helping passengers to embark and disembark the train.