

Inquiry into the Multi Purpose Taxi Program Questionnaire Department of Transport

Question 26

In relation to the post of CPVV Disability Commissioner, first appointed in 2018 and following the end of Colleen Furlanetto's term in December 2020—

- Will a new commissioner be appointed?
 - If so, when?
 - If not, why not?

The role of CPVV Disability Commissioner has been superseded the creation of a new [Chief Accessibility Advocate](#) role in the Department of Transport. This role has been created to ensure coordinated, whole-of-transport focus on improving accessibility and, delivering better outcomes for all Victorians living with a disability. While the CPVV Disability Commissioner played a valuable role in supporting approved accessibility, the role was limited in focus to the CPV sector.

Tricia Malowney OAM was appointed as Chief Accessibility Advocate on 3 December 2021 and will provide expert advice to government on how to improve accessibility across all modes of transport, including CPVs.

The [Accessible Transport Advisory Committee](#) provides strategic advice to the Government on the accessibility of Victoria's transport system, services and service delivery models to ensure an integrated focus on whole-of-journey accessibility, and a focus on universal access and inclusion across all key policies in the transport portfolio.

Question 29

Has any work to be done to investigate if/how private WAVs could be utilised to supplement the existing CPV WAV fleet?

The Department continues to monitor the industry and will advise Government on changes to policy settings to address any emerging issues in the WAV market. DoT and CPVV have for example reached out to community transport organisations to provide information and support should these providers wish to register as CPVs to better leverage their assets.

The use of private vehicles to supplement the existing CPV WAV Fleet has been considered by DoT. Individual owners of WAVs may choose to register their own vehicle as a CPV if they wish to do so. Community transport operators that offer accessible services, including those that may have WAVs in their fleet, may also choose to register their vehicles as CPVs and provide accessible CPV services in addition to their community transport operations. This may present an opportunity to maximise the use of underutilised community transport and private WAVs. The Department of Transport, in conjunction with CPVV, engaged with the community transport sector to provide information on this potential opportunity.

Since the 2017 reforms, WAV vehicle numbers in Victoria have increased from 636 vehicles to 975 as costs of entering the industry significantly reduced and lifting fee incentives have increased. During this period, waiting times for WAVs has dropped from almost 27 minutes to under 7 minutes.

Question 31

How was the eligibility criteria of the WAV subsidy scheme determined?

- Has there been any review of, or consideration given to expanding the eligibility criteria? If so, what was the outcome?

The WAV Subsidy Scheme is part of an ongoing government commitment to expand and maintain the accessibility of WAV services in urban, regional and country Victoria. Eligibility for the scheme was last reviewed in 2018 to support this commitment. The intention of the scheme is to encourage the supply of WAVs in areas of Victoria where capital costs can prohibit entry to the market. The eligibility for accessing the subsidy was determined based on the intention of the scheme.

As there is no evidence that the absence of a capital subsidy has restricted the supply of WAVs in metropolitan Melbourne, the Government has no current plans to change the eligibility criteria to ensure that taxpayer funds are used to target areas most in need of capital funding support.

Any future broadening of the eligibility requirements would be a matter for the Government (based on the advice of the Department of Transport) rather than the regulator. CPVV's role is to administer the WAV subsidy scheme on behalf of the Government. This includes administering subsidy payments in accordance with criteria established by Government.