



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

DRIVING THE ACT TAXI SUBSIDY SCHEME FURTHER

The Stanhope Government has enhanced its commitment to the mobility needs of people with disabilities with a \$241,000, ongoing and indexed, boost for the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said the initiative builds on improved entitlements introduced in the last Budget, including higher subsidies on taxi fare vouchers and funding to meet the full \$7.50 cost of the 'lift fee' paid to drivers of wheelchair accessible taxi services.

"This important Scheme assists people who are not able to access public transport services, including older citizens and people with mobility issues and other disabilities," Mr Wood said.

"Improved subsidy assistance available under the Scheme will help people to attend medical and therapy appointments, participate in education and employment activities, visit friends, or go shopping more easily.

"The Scheme supports 3 800 members, 80% of whom are over the age of 60, and more than 50% of whom are women older than 75.

"The Government has allocated a further \$120,000 to support the administration of the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme and to extend assistance to children under the age of 16.

"This brings to \$962,000 the total funds allocated to the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme, an increase of over 120% over two years.

"This funding will allow for more resources to assist Scheme members, including an information program to inform other people who may be eligible for support, and for children with disabilities who are currently not able to access other forms of transport," Mr Wood said.

Statement Ends.