



Our ref: DHS/19/02740
Your ref: 7251350

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ABN 11 525 031 744

Ms Nat Cook MP
Member for Hurtle Vale
PO Box 158
WOODCROFT SA 5162

Sent by email: shadowhumanservices@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on 5 February 2019, seeking access to:

Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS, SAHT, SAHA or Ministerial Paper 18MHS/0719.

Unfortunately, DHS was unable to make a determination on your application within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, DHS has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

Two documents were located that fit within the scope of your request and I have determined that these documents are to be released in part.

Please find enclosed a copy of the documents released, and a document schedule containing a brief description of each document and determination in summary form.

Documents 1 and 2 contain information relating to the personal affairs of third parties. I consider that it would be unreasonable to disclose this information, and determine the information exempt pursuant to clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Act. In accordance with section 20(4) of the Act, I consider that you would wish for access to the rest of the documents after exempt information is removed and am therefore releasing these documents to you in part.

If you are dissatisfied with my determination, you can seek an internal review by writing to the Chief Executive, DHS, as the Principal Officer of the agency. Your request should be sent within 30 days of your receipt of this letter.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Fiona Braendler, Senior FOI Officer, on telephone 8413 9094 or by email at DHSFreedomofInformation@sa.gov.au. If you disagree with publication, you will need to advise the Senior FOI Officer within two weeks of the date of this determination.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Schutz
ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER

22 / 03 / 2019

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – DHS/19/00562

Freedom of information application from Nat Cook MP seeking access to copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS, SAHT, SAHA or Ministerial Paper 18MHS/0719.

No	Author	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.	Isabel Fforde, Manager Policy, Concessions and Support Services	27/09/2018	Briefing – MHS/0719 - Response To Ms Amanda Rishworth MP Regarding Rail Concessions	Released in part	Exempt clause 6(1) – personal affairs
2.			Attachment 1 to Document 1 – Draft response to Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston	Released in part	Exempt clause 6(1) – personal affairs

18MHS/0719



Government of South Australia

Department of Human Services

TO MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

RE: RESPONSE TO MS AMANDA RISHWORTH MP REGARDING RAIL CONCESSIONS

Decision/action required by:...../...../.....

Reason:.....

Recommendation	Response
That you approve the draft response to Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston, who wrote to you on behalf of <u>Clause 6(1)</u> regarding rail concessions in South Australia.	<u>Approved</u> / Not Approved / Noted
Comments:	 Hon Michelle Lensink MLC 27/9/2018

PURPOSE

To inform you of transport concessions in South Australia to enable you to respond to correspondence from Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member of Kingston.

KEY POINTS

- Ms Amanda Rishworth wrote to you on behalf on Clause 6(1) who would like free rail trips to the border for concession holders reinstated.
- The South Australian Government does not fund free rail trips to the border but provides a range of alternative transport concessions.
- As an age pension recipient who is eligible for a Seniors Card, Clause 6(1) can receive free or concession fares while travelling on the Adelaide Metro, SouthLink and Premier Stateliner group transport. When visiting interstate, Seniors Card holders are also eligible for transport concessions.

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Page 1

RISKS/SENSITIVITIES

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

Travel vouchers for concession holders travelling via rail have not been available for some time.

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure was engaged upon receipt of the Ministerial correspondence from Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, but were not willing to accept the referral.

A response to Ms Rishworth has been prepared on behalf of the South Australian Government.

Whilst some jurisdictions do fund free to the border rail trips or transport vouchers, the South Australian Government does not. Currently all Great Southern Rail (GSR) services do offer concession fares, however, the concession fares vary depending on the service chosen and whether the person holds a Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or a State Seniors Card. Some veterans and their companions are also eligible for additional concessions on specified GSR services.

The State Government funds concessions for holders of eligible concession cards, such as the Pensioner Concession Card and Transport Concession Card, for travel on the Adelaide Metro transport system at approximately 50 per cent of the standard adult rate. Holders of a State Seniors Card receive free travel on Adelaide Metro outside of peak hours and concession rate travel during peak hours.

SouthLink provides travel beyond the Adelaide Metro boundaries with country fares applying. Concession fares are 50 per cent of the full adult fare, with fares varying dependent on the distance travelled. Concession passengers travelling with the Premier Stateliner Coach group are able to travel to regional locations throughout South Australia, with fares also discounted by 50 per cent. Concession fares are also available on ferry travel in South Australia.

There are currently no plans to introduce free, to the border, travel via rail in South Australia. On Sunday 26 August 2018, ABC News reported that the Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Acting Premier of South Australia would review the funding model to GSR and there were no guarantees that the service would continue. The Acting Premier also stated that patronage of trains had diminished and patronage on planes and car travel had increased.

Clause 6(1) is a current ConcessionsSA customer receiving the water and sewerage concession and the Cost of Living Concession. Clause 6(1) wife is receiving the energy concession.

A draft response has been prepared for your consideration.

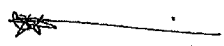
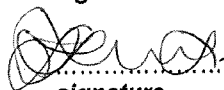
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BUDGET

Are there financial implications

No

Division	Community and Support Services		
Director Concessions and Support Services	Katherine Hawkins		03 / 09 / 18
		signature	
A/Deputy Chief Executive	Kim-Sherie Summers		5, 9, 18
		signature	

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft response to Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston.

Contact Officer:	Isabel Fforde, Manager Policy, Concessions and Support Services 8226 6901 / isabel.fforde@sa.gov.au
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**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Human Services

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18MHS/0719

Ms Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston
232 Main South Road
MORPHETT VALE SA 5162

Dear Ms Rishworth */ Amanda,*

Thank you for your letter regarding rail concessions on behalf of Clause 6(1) of Clause 6(1)

Whilst there are no plans to introduce free rail travel or free travel vouchers, there are a range of concessions available in South Australia depending on the eligibility held and the chosen rail service.

For example, Great Southern Rail offers concession fares to holders of Pensioner Concession Cards, Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards and State Seniors Cards. Significant discounts are also available to Veterans.

The South Australian Government funds transport concessions to holders of eligible concession cards, such as Pensioner Concession Cards, Seniors Cards or Transport Concession Cards, through Adelaide Metro and Premier Stateliner Coach group, operating in South Australia.

Pensioner Concession Card holders can receive concession fares at approximately 50 per cent of the standard adult rate when travelling with Adelaide Metro. Seniors Card holders can receive concession rate fares from Monday to Friday at peak times, with free travel at all other times. SouthLink provides travel beyond the Adelaide Metro boundaries with country fares applying. Concession fares are approximately 50 per cent of the full adult fare, with fares varying dependent on the distance travelled. For further information, please visit <https://www.adelaidemetro.com.au>

Concession passengers travelling with Premier Stateliner Coach group are able to travel to regional locations throughout South Australia, with fares discounted by approximately 50 per cent. Concession fares are available on ferry travel in South Australia. Seniors Card holders are also eligible for discounted transport while visiting interstate.

If Clause 6(1) has any further queries regarding transport concessions in South Australia, I encourage him to contact the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure at https://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/contact_us or on telephone 1300 872 677.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Lensink'.

Hon Michelle Lensink MLC
MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

27/9 /2018