1 April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT’S TAXI SUPPLEMENT SCHEME PUNISHES THE MOST VUNERABLE

Tasmanian’s who are dependent on the state’s maxi taxis for transport due to their significant disability, will be at risk of being worse off and effectively shut out of their community after the Hodgman Liberal Government announced a Tasmanian Taxi Supplement to replace the current Passenger Transport Subsidy Scheme.

Disability Advocate Jane Wardlaw said, ‘The announcement today by Minister Jeremy Rockliff to replace the current transport subsidy scheme which provides a 60% subsidy on every maxi taxi trip with a capped and decreasing annual supplement, will impact on approximately 25% of those of us who are fully dependent on the maxi taxi transport to meet our transport requirements to access our community.’

‘This new supplement will make accessible taxi travel too expensive, and hence, people with profound disability will not be able to be a part of their community, effectively shut out of society, due to unaffordability for this basic human right.’ said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) also provides a capped funding contribution for transport depending on the NDIS Participant’s engagement in education and employment.

“NDIS Participants living with significant and profound disability can only access up to $2000 per annum from the NDIA yet transport costs can exceed more than $6,000 per year to $22,000 for those living remotely.”, said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

Disability Advocate Jane Wardlaw said, ‘The Minister should not be punishing people living with significant disability as political footballs to make a point to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to properly fund transport.’

‘Disappointingly, Minister Jeremy Rockliff has not consulted meaningfully with people severely impacted by this shocking decision.’, said Jane Wardlaw, Disability Advocate.

**Jane Wardlaw is available for comment from 8:30am – 10:30am and 1pm – 6pm**

**Tuesday 2 April 2019 (please text if you need to speak to her earlier).**

**Contact: 0409 961 844**

**IS THE MINISTER COST SHIFTING TO THE NDIS????**