

**John Elphick**  
27/03/2006

Fwd: Submission re Rail Transport Fare Increase

Dear Sir or Madam.

I wish to submit on behalf of the many Volunteer/Pensioners. a request that, during your Tribunal Investigations, that some consideration and Investigation, may be undertaken as to State Rail Fares for Volunteers who give a large amount of their time to Volunteering, and travel on the Rail Transport System to their Venues. Vis:

Hospital Visitation, Personal Carers, Govt., Instrumentalities, (both State and Federal), Special Events, etc., etc., So the List would go on..

Many of us, including myself, give an average of 9 days per fortnight to our Volunteering commitment.

We DO NOT get any remuneration from those Organisations for which we work for, in most cases, not even a light meal, or meal allowance, even though we work in most cases, in excess of 6 hours per shift, so we pay, ourselves, for the priviledge of being a Volunteer, even though those Organisations, the bulk of them being Govt., Authorities, and to a lesser extent, Corporate Bodies, VIZ: The Easter Show. benefit from our efforts.

In both cases, we Save both the Govt., Authorities and Corporate Bodies, large amounts, due to our Commitment. i.e: Govt., Instrumentalities Save in Wages to others who would be otherwise be doing our work, and, Corporate Bodies would save likewise, but our Volunteering in these Events, would bring in extra Cash Revenue, because these Events cause the Spectators to use Public Transport to travel to the Venue.. VIZ: Olympic Park Events.. Football, Easter Show, etc.,

To Quote our Prime Minister, and the State Premier, " The Country/State relies on our VOLUNTEERS".

I feel that it is about time that they showed their commitment to the Volunteers, by repaying them in some small way for their efforts.

What I would ask from your Tribunal is, that you would investigate some way in helping those Volunteers, who give a large percentage of their time to Volunteering, and therefore Travelling by Public Transport, some sort of reduced Fare arrangement, or, preferably, FREE Transport to, and from the Volunteer Venues..

This could be acheived if a Volunteer who had shown a Commitment to their Particular Volunteer Commitments for, say in excess of 50hrs, or over a number of Days, in a short period of time, say 3 Months, being granted a Free Pass for Travel To and From their Volunteer Position, for the remainder of the Year. ( To be renewed Annually)..

This could be, in most cases adminstered by the Voluntary Authority. After all, Schools administer the Issue of Free Bus Passes to Schoolchildren.

I feel that Volunteers have been forgotten since the fabulous Olympic Games, when they were lauded, and are now, to a point forgotten, but used for their commitment, without any thought to ongoing commitment versus ongoing Financial Situations.

It's about time that some thought was going given to making their Financial Losses being considered, along with their Value as a Volunteer, and,

I hope that you shall consider this during your Tribunal..

Sincerely yours,

John C. Elphick