



Report recommends improving safety and fairness of Multi Purpose Taxi Program

The Victorian Government should move to protect vulnerable citizens using the Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) by immediately addressing concerns about wheelchair accessible vehicles, a report tabled in the Legislative Council today has recommended.

The Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee report follows its inquiry into the MPTP, a scheme that provides subsidised travel for Victorians with a disability.

"This is a great program that helps all Victorians to live a full life, by supporting access to vital medical care and helping to maintain social contact," said Committee Chair Enver Erdogan.

"One of the main areas of concern identified by this report is wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs). The Committee learnt that around 15% of MPTP members rely on WAVs for their transport needs. Unfortunately, the regulator, Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria (CPVV), does not know how many WAVs are currently operating on Victoria's roads."

The Committee has made recommendations to address this problem immediately, as well as regarding CPVV's ongoing responsibilities.

The MPTP has been operating since 1983 and in 2017 began expanding to include providers other than traditional taxi services, including rideshare services.

"The expansion of the MPTP has been great for increasing choice for members of the scheme, but the expansion has also raised some fears," Mr Erdogan said.

"One of these is surge pricing. While the vast majority of those who use the scheme understand surge pricing, it's important that members of the scheme, such as those with a severe intellectual disability, are appropriately supported in their choices," he said.

The Committee has also recommended CPVV immediately address ongoing issues regarding data management with the Multi Purpose Taxi Program and report to the Minister for Public Transport identifying where the weaknesses in data management are occurring and what actions have been taken to rectify the problems.

The report includes 20 findings and recommendations that address safety, fairness and the expected impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The full report is available on the Committee's [website](#).

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