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Subject: Travel pass
Date: Sunday, 1 March 2020 5:03:00 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Darren Chester 12Feb2020.docx](#)
[Veterans Card.JPG](#)
[Reply from Darren Chester 22Feb2020.pdf](#)

Dear Minister,

My name is Trevor Benneworth, I live in Brisbane. I served with the Air Force from 1965 until 1971. I was posted to Vietnam with 35 Squadron in 1969 and was medevacked back to Australia in 1970. I am now a TPI.

Being a TPI, the Queensland Government has granted me a public transport travel pass which allows me free travel on all public transport and for which I am forever grateful. Recently I needed to travel to Victoria and it was suggested to me that I ask if I could access free travel while there. I contacted the Vic Transport Department and was issued with a free travel pass upon presentation of a copy of my TPI endorsed Veterans card. I believe a similar benefit is available from all States provided proof is shown that the applicant is indeed a TPI or an EDA.

I recently wrote to the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs (attached) suggesting that as States are willing to provide free public transport to TPIs and EDAs, perhaps it would be a good suggestion, and a good idea, if instead of individual States issuing their own travel passes, each State just accepted the new Veterans card embossed with either TPI or EDA (attached) and provided free public transport to holders of these cards. This would save time and save money for individual States as there would be no need to check if each applicant is entitled to a travel pass, (the Fed Gov't would have done that in issuing the Veterans card) there would be no need to issue individual State passes and no need for the Veteran to apply to visiting States for a temporary pass.

I received the typical [DVA](#) non-committal reply from the Minister (attached).

I appreciate that each State bears the cost of providing free transport to TPIs and/or EDAs and at present the permanent card is presented by each state only to residents of that State, however, it seems that States, in their generosity, will willingly provide a temporary pass to visiting qualified Veterans. Surely, then, a one card system would be easier for all concerned and would be cost neutral. There is a precedent of sorts for this suggestion, the National Companion Card Scheme, although issued by individual States, is recognised Australia wide and gives card holders access to its benefits in visited States without seeking permission and approval.

Governments have been willing to promote the new Veterans card and its

entitlements (*The Veteran Card will help Australians, including businesses, organisations, community groups and service providers to identify veterans and offer respect to them and their family.*) I humbly request that States look favourably at this suggestion as it offers a win win solution.

Distribution:

The Honourable Mark Bailey, Queensland.

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The Honourable Eva Lawler, NT.

The Honourable Rita Saffioti, WA.

CC. The Honourable Darren Chester.

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