



COTA Over 50s MEDIA RELEASE 31 Dec '08
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PM - Again Delivers for Seniors

COTA Over 50s applauds the PM's latest budget initiative wherein seniors around Australia will be able to access new transport concessions when they travel interstate after January 1st as a new national scheme rolls out.

The Australian Government has offered almost \$50 million over four years to State and Territory Governments so that they can provide concessions to Seniors Card holders who are using public transport services outside their home state.

Until now, Seniors Cards have entitled the card holder to public transport concessions in their home state.

"This means that seniors travelling interstate can now access cheaper fares on local public transportation", said Dr Geoffrey Bird, Executive Director, COTA Over 50s.

"Seniors from the Northern Territory can enjoy discount travel to Sydney, including a "seniors" ferry ride around Sydney Harbour". They will also benefit from bus and train travel concessions.

"So seniors with Seniors Cards, which are issued by each state and territory government to people over the age of 60 and working less than fulltime, can now use public transportation to see the "lucky country".

When fully operational, over 3 million Australians who hold Seniors Cards will enjoy these benefits.

Needless to say, this initiative will also help individuals, communities and businesses that rely on tourism.

Best wishes for 2009, Mr. Rudd.

For further information contact

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