



Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Taxi Funding and Usage

Background

Highgate RSL sub-branch conducts monthly lunch meetings in order to provide a suitable forum for member camaraderie and communication, to ensure the well-being of its members are addressed, and to some extent provide a purpose for its members, many of whom live alone. The lunch meetings provide the appropriate setting for members to discuss any needs or issues in a friendly and congenial atmosphere.

Part of the mission of the RSLWA is *to provide assistance and care for serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force. Whether sick, suffering from mental illness, of elderly age, homeless or in need of relief, the RSL will be there.* Consistent with that mission, Highgate encourages those with mobility constraints to attend the lunches and enjoy the benefits of mateship by providing a taxi service.

Welfare Funds

The costs associated with taxis are funded from Highgate's welfare account, which in addition, is used to provide relief for other member needs as they arise and in most cases, unforeseen. Welfare funds are sourced from the sale of red poppies each annual Remembrance Day and are therefore finite. Management of welfare expenditure is of prime importance. To ensure welfare funds are expended with optimal and equitable benefits, each request for assistance involving welfare funding needs to be prioritised and managed, including taxi usage.

Usage Guidelines

Taxis may be provided for any member wishing to attend a monthly lunch or any other Highgate activity and who has mobility constraints. To ensure welfare funds are not depleted prematurely, taxis may only be provided to those within a **20 km radius of the Perth CBD**. Members living outside a 20 km radius and who have mobility constraints may request a taxi to the nearest rail station or appropriate bus stop, that is one with overhead shelter and seating. Taxis are to be shared where possible to ensure maximum usage for the one fare.

Authorisation

Taxis may be authorised by the nominated committee member/s or other nominated members of Highgate RSL sub-branch.

Service Provider

Swan taxis are Highgate's current authorised service provider.

Service Withdrawal

The provision of taxis as outlined in this policy may be withdrawn at any time as other welfare spending priorities arise.