



**John Sidoti MP**

Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads  
Member for Drummoyne

ML15/05108

Ms Jane Sulis  
Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes NSW  
PO Box 259  
ROSEBERY NSW 1445

Dear Ms Sulis

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure about transport concessions for asylum seekers. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I note your comments and appreciate your feedback.

I am pleased to advise the Premier recently announced the NSW Government's decision to provide transport concessions to asylum seekers. The concession will help eligible asylum seekers to access important social and community services and participate more fully in society. It will come into effect on 1 January 2016.

The transport concession will be equivalent to the Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card. As you may be aware, the Gold Opal card offers a fare of \$2.50 for all day, multimodal travel on the entire Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink Intercity network, all Sydney Ferries services, buses and light rail.

This concession for asylum seekers will be the most generous of any state and is in addition to the \$1.1 billion dollars the NSW Government already spends annually to support concession travel for beneficiaries. This currently includes students, apprentices, trainees, jobseekers, veterans, customers with disabilities, and seniors and pensioners.

You may wish to visit [www.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

**John Sidoti MP**

16 JUL 2015