



# **Victor Dominello MP**

Minister for Citizenship and Communities  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FAIR GO ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS**

More than 200 war veterans and widows in NSW may be eligible to receive free or discounted public transport for the first time after a longstanding loophole was finally closed, Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello announced today.

Mr Dominello, who is responsible for veterans' affairs, said veterans who served after 2004 and war widows whose partners lost their lives since that year were previously unable to receive free and discounted public transport, following a change in the Commonwealth's compensation system.

"This oversight, which has been ignored for years, has finally been rectified and I thank the Minister for Transport, Gladys Berejiklian, for her work on this matter, as well as the NSW RSL and the War Widows' Guild NSW for bringing the issue to my attention," Mr Dominello said.

"Ex-Defence Force personnel who incurred an eligible disability while serving in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars, and war widows whose partners gave their lives in these conflicts, will now be able to receive their rightful entitlements to free and discounted public transport in NSW."

Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans' Affairs Charlie Lynn said war veterans with a disability and widows rightly receive free or discounted travel in NSW in recognition of the debt owed to them by the community for their service and sacrifice.

In 2004, the Commonwealth Government changed the way it compensated injured war veterans, resulting in some receiving lump sum payments instead of a pension. But the NSW transport concession system only recognised veterans who received a pension, leaving many legitimately injured returned veterans ineligible for transport concessions.

Now the NSW transport system is ensuring that returned veterans receive the transport concessions no matter how the Commonwealth is compensating them for injuries received during service.

War veterans with eligible disabilities and war widows and widowers can apply for public transport entitlements online at [www.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au).

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