



NSW Companion Card

Companion Card is a not-for-profit program, funded by the NSW Government and managed by National Disability Services. The card is intended for people with a permanent and significant disability who require their carer to assist with things like mobility, self-care or communication over and above the use of aids and equipment. The card allows people to attend events / venues with a carer and only pay for one ticket.

NOTE: If booking on the phone, be sure to tell the operator about the Companion Card before you pay. You will then be given a second ticket for your carer or companion at no charge.

There is no income or assets test and people may apply irrespective of employment or financial status. The person must fill in an application form and meet all of the criteria, two colour photographs of passport quality must be supplied by the applicant as well.

Companion Cards are only issued in the name of the person with disability. The person with disability is then able to choose their carer in each instance.

The Companion Card program will consider applications from people whose conditions are episodic (for example, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, schizophrenia, etc.) on a case by case basis. A card will only be issued if a carer is needed in most circumstances and support needs cannot be managed by treatment, aids, medication, etc.

For more information visit: <http://nswcompanioncard.org.au/> **Freecall 1800 893 044**

RAIL – BUS – FERRY;

Free travel on most public transport for companion/attendant/carers when accompanying a Companion Card holder. There are a few exceptions to this policy:

- * The accompanying companion can obtain a free first class or economy class seat, but applicable berth fees will have to be paid;
- * There are no concessions available on Great Southern Rail (Sydney to Broken Hill);
- * There are no concessions available on Fast Ferries to Manly (Circular Quay & Manly) – Check with the operators before travelling.

Please Note: * Interstate Companion Cards

Limited Concession travel is available for interstate Card holders. Check with operator or State Transit Authority before travel.

GOODS and SERVICES;

There are a number of businesses, organisations, events or venues that have registered with the Companion Card program. These are called 'Affiliates'

Visit the website to search for the services in your local area, or call **1800 893 044**

<http://nswcompanioncard.org.au/affiliate/>

There are more than 750 participating businesses listed.

You can also [download a full list](#) (Word 430KB) to print out and keep.

NSW Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS)

Is administered by NSW State Government: Transport for NSW.

People with severe and **permanent** disabilities may be entitled to a 50% discount on taxi fares up to a maximum of \$30. (eg: if your taxi fare was \$75 you would receive the maximum discount of only \$30 and you will pay the remaining \$45; if your fare was \$40 you would receive 50% discount of \$20 and pay the remaining amount of \$20). Being in receipt of a pension does **not** automatically qualify you for participation in this scheme. Your doctor or treating specialist must provide medical information to help assess your eligibility. Your medical condition is reviewed by an independent medical advisor, and if you are deemed eligible, you will be sent a book of travel dockets that must be completed and given to the taxi driver at each trip.

A maximum of 15 minutes waiting time can be included on the voucher, any time over this limit will be paid for by the participant. These dockets are only valid in NSW. For travel in other states you must request interstate travel vouchers at least 2 weeks before you plan to travel.

For more information call: **1800 623 724**

<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/ttss/ttss-gorm05-general-information-for-participants-2011-13.pdf>

QANTAS Carer's Concession Card

The Qantas Carer Concession Card is administered by **NICAN** (*National Information Communication Awareness Network*). People with a disability and high level support needs, eg: to have one-on-one support when seated on the plane for assistance with meals/drinks, transferring to the bathroom, orientation, communicating with the flight staff etc., would be eligible to apply for the card.

NOTE: A person would **not** be eligible if they only need assistance boarding the plane, or when they arrive at their destination.

Discounts are only available for Qantas domestic travel within Australia.

Discounts are **not** available on international travel; on flights operated by any of Qantas' alliance partners; or in conjunction with any other concessional airfare – eg: airfares for children and seniors.

Domestic Economy Class Fares = 10% For Qantas Carer Concession Cardholders	Business Class Travel For Qantas Carer Concession Cardholders: 50% off J class Business Class Fares when D class are available
Domestic Economy Class Fares = 50% For Nominated Carers	For Nominated Carers: 50% off J class Business Class Fares when D class are available

All discounts are subject to booking class availability.

Bookings for the cardholder and their nominated carer must be made at the same time and both bookings must be made using the Card in order to obtain the discount.

The Qantas Booking Fee is not payable on bookings made using Qantas Carer Concession Card

To apply for the Qantas Carer Concession Card contact contact NICAN (02) 6241 1220 or **1800 806 769** or visit their website <http://nican.com.au/contact-us>

NOTE: This card is a photo ID card which is valid for three years and has an administration fee of \$27.50 (including GST).