

After having a stroke at 47 and 5 years in a nursing home I came home to a modified house 2nd December 2002. Since then I have travelled a lot.

2003 fly to Darwin, drive to Kakadu and back to Darwin, fly to Alice Springs, train to Adelaide, flight to Melbourne.

I travelled with my Cousin and a carer. It was a very successful trip.

2004 fly to Perth.

Need loo in Melbourne before embarking and upon disembarking and drink little on the flight.

Drove to Bunbury for my Niece's wedding. Travel was with partner and carer. Very successful trip.

2005 fly to Newcastle for niece's wedding. Travel was with partner and carer.

2006 Fly to Perth for a cousin's day party with partner and carer. Again go to Perth for a reunion. Trips were successful. I took advantage of the NICAN Concession card which entitled me and carer to 50% discount business class.

2007 I plan to fly to Perth with a carer. We plan to tour the south west with a friend. I will use the NICAN card. I rely on a carer wherever I go as I cannot talk or walk. I have had difficulty with a Travel Agent who expect one to pay \$140 because I am disabled. I worked for an airline for 23 years and never experienced this type of charge. I have an issue with Yarratrams in Melbourne.

Where do I start? Generally, it's a waiting game with maxi taxis. I always book far ahead of appointment, extra early, and where possible book return. Yesterday I wanted to see a friend in hospital and had to wait over an hour for return. Ensure you get booking reference, if possible have carer who makes booking travel with you, have company number in your mobile, have change. Have wheelchair company show you where best place to tie down chair as can be expensive to fix, I have had seat back broken and pedal broken, take out flag as this could starch taxi. I have been charged 100per cent. I have had business cards made with my address on. Helps to know your surroundings. I believe taxi company should give people business cards! Trains- I had an issue with a train not picking me up and was late for an appointment. Usually, ok.

Trams - caused chaos trying to board a lightrail tram, Chair got broken by

Well meaning people. Am finding it hard to find out when a route will be Wheelchair friendly.

Local council; is quite good in fixing roads and paths.

In general, there is no information of health services that are wheelchair friendly.

Well do not get me going on building access, or loo access!

Managed well on south west of WA tour.

Managed to get into 4WD by way of a step made by Marlene and a dog lead wrapped around handgrip to haul myself up and slide onto seat.

Heather Dare

Albert Park, Vic