

The following is referred for your information and may be published in any association newsletters:

**Newsletter item for veterans' agencies and organisations
TCEC for Ex-Defence - September 2016**

New travel pass for eligible NSW ex-members of the defence forces

NSW ex-members of the defence forces with service-related disabilities are receiving a new travel pass (ticket) from Transport for NSW.

The Transport Concession Entitlement Card is replacing the Ex-Member of Defence Forces Pass (paper ticket) that expires on **31 October 2016**.

The Transport Concession Entitlement Card is a valid travel pass (or ticket) for NSW ex-members of the defence forces with service-related disabilities.

Similar to the previous ticket, the Transport Concession Entitlement Card will be used as a proof of entitlement to free travel. Cardholders will need to show it to staff at train stations or wharves who will manually open wide access gates. Cardholders will also need to show it to bus drivers, light rail and private ferry staff. Revenue protection officers or NSW police officers may also ask to see it.

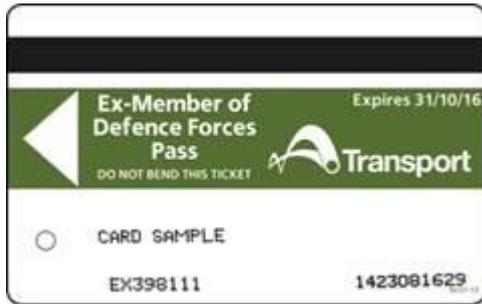
Travel entitlements and eligibility rules have not changed. For full details please go to **transportnsw.info/ex-defence**

New applicants have been receiving the cards since early September 2016. From mid-October 2016, Transport Concession Entitlement Cards will be mailed-out to around 15,000 existing Ex-Member of Defence Forces Pass holders.

The free travel Opal card is optional for NSW ex-members of the defence forces with service-related disabilities. Tapping on and off is also optional. Customers who use the free travel Opal card can open gates at train stations and wharves themselves. It's not too late to order a free travel Opal card. Details will be provided when the Transport Concession Entitlement Card is mailed out to existing customers. New applicants can download the application form at **transportnsw.info/ex-defence**

Caption:

The Ex-Member of Defence Forces Pass is being replaced by the blue Transport Concession Entitlement Card. NSW ex-members of the defence forces with service-related disabilities can also get a free travel Opal card.



What do the codes on the back of the Transport Concession Entitlement Card mean?

- **TRAVEL PASS (ED)** indicates that the card is a travel pass and **ED** is for Ex-Defence customers
- **EX + number** is printed **only for customers who live outside the Sydney and Newcastle suburban areas**. This number is used when booking with NSW TrainLink Regional
- **PBO/LR** indicates cardholders are entitled to free travel on private buses and light rail
- **CONCSAF** indicates cardholders are entitled to pay only a concession Station Access fee at Sydney Airport Stations
- **CARD ID** is the unique number of the card
- **EXPIRY** is the date the card expires.

Hadyn White

Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT

Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9213-7773

Mobile: 0413 302 693