



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



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MP Calls for Better Guidance for Blind and Vision-Impaired Train Users

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, spoke in Parliament tonight about the need for better guidance for blind and vision-impaired train travellers. He told Parliament that there is a great need for an improved and consistent system of guidance through railway stations and that there are suitable methods to provide this.

According to Mr Piper, there are examples of good practice from around the world, including developing economies such as India.

The simplest system is the use of tactile pathways, but this can be improved greatly by Braille or tactile signage on handrails. Audio signals can help connect people to these pathways and central audio points can provide detailed information.

Options that could be used in combination to facilitate easier orientation and movement include:

- Audio signals marking the start of tactile pathways
- Directional pathways with Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs)
- Handrails with Braille and tactile information specifying location and direction
- Central Braille, tactile and interactive audio points

“A standard system using these methods can be applied to stairs, escalators and elevators and can help avoid obstacles,” Mr Piper said. “Blind and vision-impaired people can have much more mobility through more railway stations if they can have access to a consistent system of information.”

“There are ways to improve way-finding for blind and vision-impaired people and there are ways to minimise the cost by providing clear guidance to central help points,” Mr Piper added.

Mr Piper has produced a document showing examples of good practice for guiding blind and vision-impaired people and has written to the Minister for Transport asking him to implement a consistent system that will make rail travel less challenging.

“There is limited help for blind and vision-impaired people on NSW railway stations,” said Mr Piper. These people could travel with more dignity and safety if they can have simple information confirming where they are and which way they need to go – the same information the rest of us get so easily.”

The text of Mr Piper’s speech and his document on Improving Guidance for Blind and Vision-Impaired People at NSW Railway Stations are attached.

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