



Phil Drewett, Gawler Hire Car Services owner, will continue providing subsidised travel services as part of the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme.

Subsidised scheme continues

DISABLED and elderly persons will have access to a subsidised taxi service, after Gawler Hire Car Services was approved to continue delivering the state government scheme.

The local transport company had trouble renewing its contract for the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS), and expected to cease the service on June 30.

Gawler resident Margaret Nettleton, 84, said the subsidised service is essential, allowing her to make doctors' appointments and maintain independence.

"The Gawler Hire Car Service

has been travelling us elderlies around for years – we don't know what we would do without them," Ms Nettleton said.

"The \$2 dial-a-ride service is no good for us – if I want to go to the doctors, I don't want to go to a heap of places along the way.

"With the transport subsidy scheme I get my taxi rides half-price. Say it's \$10 from here down to the other end of Murray street to the doctors, I pay \$5, and the government subsidises the other \$5. I can't afford to be spending \$10 there and \$10 home – I can scratch through \$10 for both."

SATSS offers a 50 per cent taxi

fare subsidy for eligible people who are able to walk, and a 75 per cent subsidy for those in a wheelchair.

Gawler Hire Car Services' owner Phil Drewett said negotiations with the Department of Transport last week produced a "very, very good" outcome for the community.

"I have accepted a 12-month contract to accept the SATSS vouchers, on the grounds we work through other anomalies during that time," Mr. Drewett said.

"As long as we get a satisfactory result, everybody in the town will be the real winners. It is important people know we are here to support them."

– Jessica Magliulo