MEDIA RELEASE

TRAVELSCENE’S COST TO TAXPAYERS

Wednesday June 20th, 2012

The Government gave $11,000 of taxpayers money under the Pensioner’s Concession Scheme to a travel agent that was never spent on holidays.

Shadow Seniors Minister, Peter Styles, questioned Minister Rob Knight about how much money was lost when local travel agent Travelscene went out of business earlier this year.

“When I asked in Parliament in February how much taxpayer money was given to the travel agent the Minister didn’t know," Mr Styles said.

“Tonight in Estimates Committee hearings, I was told $11,000 of taxpayer money was lost as a result of the collapse.

“A large number of senior Territorians who believed they had holidays booked found that wasn’t the case.

“These people were duped by the collapse of Travelscene and, as it turns out, so were taxpayers.

“It is important that the Government makes every effort to recoup the money lost and that a full police investigation takes place.

“While the vast majority of travel agents behave with the utmost integrity, the Government must ensure pensioners and taxpayers are protected from this type of behaviour.”

Further comment: Peter Styles 0411 640 660