

COUNTRY SCHOOL STUDENTS, BUS FARE CONCESSIONS

**951. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to country students travelling to school out of normal hours for school-based activities such as music and sporting commitments.

- (1) Why are they not eligible for bus fare concessions like their city counterparts on the only form of public transport available, even when it is privately operated?
- (2) Is it intended to rectify this situation and make it equitable for all students in WA?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?

**Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The answer is as follows -

- (1)-(2) Students in the country who travel on public transport services are entitled to the same fare concessions as students in the metropolitan area, regardless of the time at which they travel. Contract school buses used for the purpose of taking children to and from school during normal school hours are provided free of charge to students. In contrast, metropolitan students pay fares to use the equivalent service provided by the public transport system. When contract school buses are used for extracurricular activities, the buses are normally chartered by the school.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.