

AUSTRALIND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — HARVEY BUS SERVICE

**1392. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) Can the minister explain why parents in the Harvey area have been told that a number of students starting in years 7 and 8 at Australind Senior High School in 2015 cannot be provided with transport by the school bus service?
- (2) Is it because the school bus service is full?
- (3) If yes to (2), why cannot additional services be provided?
- (4) How many students are affected?
- (5) What advice does the minister have for Harvey families whose children have succeeded in gaining places at Australind Senior High School in specialist academic, dance and sports leadership programs but now find themselves without a school bus service?

**Hon JIM CHOWN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(3) A number of students living in the Harvey area are not eligible for transport assistance to attend Australind Senior High School. Where possible, the Public Transport Authority has provided bus transport under a complimentary arrangement, where spare capacity exists. Unfortunately, these types of arrangements are often only temporary as eligible students require access to transport and may take up all available seats.

The PTA receives many requests for assistance from families seeking transport assistance to what is essentially a school-of-choice decision, as is the case for families living in Harvey and choosing to send their children to Australind SHS. Although the decision to enrol a student at a school other than the nearest appropriate school is respected, it brings with it a responsibility for parents to make their own transport arrangements.

- (4) There are 10 students.
- (5) See answers (1)–(3).