

MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, BUS FARE ELIGIBILITY CONCESSIONS FOR
AUGUSTA SCHOOL STUDENTS

848. Hon Barry House to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) Why are Augusta school students, who attend the Margaret River Senior High School, not eligible for bus fare concessions on the South West Coach Lines bus service (which is the only general transport service available to them at these times) when they are attending, out of normal hours, school-based activities such as music and sporting commitments?
- (2) How does this meet the Government's equal opportunities criteria when there is such a clear discrepancy between the policies for city and country students?
- (3) How does the Government propose to address this glaring anomaly?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

- (1) For rural based students the Government provides a free contract school bus system. In the metropolitan area students using the contract school bus system are required to pay the equivalent of the Transperth concessional fare.

The Government also provides concessional fares for students on public transport systems in Perth and where they operate in major regional centres such as Bunbury, Albany and Geraldton. For inter-town travel the Western Australian Government Railways Commission provides concessional travel for students and children. I am also advised that South West Coach Lines offers concessional fares for students and children.
- (2) The only discrepancy between the policies for city and country students is that city students are required to pay fares for trips to and from school.
- (3) It is intended to preserve free bus services for country students attending school.