

I would like to submit a few comments with regards to our school bus service.

My six year old son attends Nyabing Primary School in the Great Southern. Our bus service is provided by Nicholls of Narrogin.

Our bus run is the Nyabing East Service.

(there is also one another bus that services school pick ups and it runs to the West of Nyabing)

At the present time we have to drive 7kms to meet our bus, so this results in a 28km total every day to get to the bus, and yes we get a conveyance allowance which is greatly received.

However we have applied to the SBS each year since he started school to apply to get the bus to our driveway/gate, but at the present time we still have to drive the 28kms every day. The majority of children who get on our bus are all collected at their gate/driveways. So for our son he feels like the odd one out and doesn't do much for his confidence and it is hard to get him to understand why we have to drive so far to the bus.

Of course the main reason for having to meet our bus is because our bus run is so long and the first pick up is 7.16am which is far too early, with the bus arriving at 8.50am to school, this is a very long time for children to be on the bus, 1 hour 34 minutes!

Each term the bus swaps around the route so that the kids get two terms of "early" bus and two terms of "late" bus which is a great thing that our bus service does.

When kids that are on early and are relatively near to Nyabing, they don't always get on the early bus and this could be the case all term, so they are not using the bus in the morning but using it at night. But the bus still has to run to the designated timetable, this is very frustrating as we still have to drive up the road 7kms to meet the bus, and the majority of these cases their pick up is at the end of their driveway. so you can see my frustration. *Maybe students should be required to use the bus a higher percentage of time per term! ? Or best outcome we need three busses.

Of course the main reason for our bus being far too early is because our run covers a large area (over 100kms) and realistically we need three buses. (I can completely see why any kids on the early bus, get taken to school)

1 hour 34 minutes is far too long for children to be on the bus, and then they are expected to get to school and learn! A very long day for them.

So then the bus condition, our bus at present has had a few general maintenance issues, which I suppose is general wear and tear but one major problem is the dust that comes into the bus especially in the rear of the bus, this is really bad and because the bus is full (20 children) its not as if the children in the dust area can move seats. This is a serious problem, the owners of the bus have been informed of the problem but as yet it is still an issue, I feel that this is a serious risk to health.

Are bus companies required to follow a particular check list etc every month or that type of thing?

Do all bus drivers know what is expected of them? Do all bus drivers have a job description? If not, would this not be a compulsory requirement of any contractor?

Hence bus drivers who are new to a position are a bit in the dark of what is required of them, and if they are not sure then it is a chain reaction down the line to the children if there are any issues on the bus.

Is it a case that all bus contractors across the board should be on the same page as others. Perhaps there needs to be a black and white guidance to all contractors and all schools as to what is the protocol on busses and then everyone is knows what is what.

The main points of our submission are :

*Bus run too long

*Probably need an extra bus

*excessive dust in bus

*Job descriptions for drivers

*not being able to get bus to end of driveway/gateway

*having to drive 28kms round trip to meet bus

*SBS need to get on the ground and take a visit to the areas they are mapping out, as sometimes I feel they are working blind.

*Being told that because you have one child, if they could use a "spur" that it wont happen because you have only one child! Clearly this is not good as it is discrimination to put it bluntly.

I thank you for your time and I hope you take this feedback on board as Im sure you have lots to read through. Our bus as a rule is ok but ive been asked for an opinion and Im giving feedback as I feel the points that I have raised are valid and important.

Thanks again