

To the enquiry panel,
Please accept this submission into the transport of students on orange school buses in W.A.

As a contractor I have an intimate knowledge of this industry. Whilst I am generally very happy with our system as it stands, I do have concerns.

My major concern with the system is the distance students must live from their school to be entitled to transport on an orange school bus,
This distance is currently 4.5 kilometres.

With the amount of traffic and lack of verges, children are often in a precarious and dangerous situation walking or riding to school.

As Governments are actively encouraging parents to return to work once their children start school, this is often an unrealistic expectation for families living outside town boundaries, without the knowledge that their children can safely get to school as an entitled passenger.

Whilst many of these children have access to a bus as a complimentary passenger, there is uncertainty that this may be short term and their employment could be in jeopardy, therefore they are reluctant to rejoin the workforce.

I believe there are serious concerns being;

- Children's safety- road, undesirables and environmental conditions
- Parent confidence to seek employment .
- Economic disadvantage to families and business.
- The time required for children to walk 4.5 kilometres would be in the vicinity of 1 hour each way, which is an unreasonable expectation, in particular the younger students.

I trust you will view this and give serious consideration to reducing the distance from school from 4.5K - 2.5K which is in line with the distance children only need to walk to a current bus stop.

With regards

Carol McDonald