

17 October 2021

To whom it may concern,

Inquiry into the Student Transport Assistance Policy framework

I write as a parent of a child at Kondinin Primary School and a community member that feels strongly about the longevity and sustainability of our primary school and our country town and the implications of not having our own school bus has on this situation.

Kondinin Primary School currently does not have a Kondinin specific bus that brings children into the school. Children have to catch the Kulin/Hyden bus into town. This bus is designed for secondary students who wish to travel to Kulin from Hyden/Karlgarin/Kondinin to Kulin District High School. It also takes Kondinin town primary children out of town to Kulin, the latter of which I think is an unacceptable expense on tax payers when there is perfectly good Primary School in Kondinin.

A Narembeen bus contractor works at Kondinin Primary School and parks the bus at Kondinin Primary School. This also takes three primary town children out of town. This bus is not designed to service Kondinin. It is a Narembeen bus and should not have its start and end point in Kondinin. How this set up was ever able to happen is astounding.

Many people new to town assume that the only option for child's education is Kulin or Narembeen, which again relates to the option of sending primary school children out of town, and the inability of farm children to be brought into town to school. Many of these families do not even consult our wonderful school to see what is on offer.

This situation has financial implications in that the Kondinin Primary School is currently missing out on about \$7100 per student on those who seek education out of town and then more broadly parents of these children shop out of town which impacts local businesses.

The situation also has social impacts on our community, whereby children who are educated out of town generally end up playing sport out of town and do not identify with being 'from Kondinin', which will have implications in generations to come.

Kondinin is a well serviced country town with a Shire Office, a Community Resource Centre, a bank, a Post Office, Hospital, Medical Centre, various local businesses, a Western Power depot, a police station and high quality sporting facilities. The hub of the community however is the primary school, which is paramount in the sustainability of our community.

I urge you in your review of the Transport Assistance Policy that primary school age children are required to only catch a bus to the nearest school to where they reside. It should also be stipulated that schools are not able to accept primary school aged children to attend their school who intend to arrive by bus if they have a school that they can attend that is closer to their place of residence.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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