

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide a submission for the Student Transport Assistance Policy

I request that the committee strengthen the policy to ensure that bus services are available such that parents can send their children to a religious school of their choosing (i.e the closest school affiliated with their particular church denomination) rather than to the closest Christian or State School.

My children travel 40km each way to school each day to attend the school associated with our church denomination. This equates to 160km of travel by parents each day. This was not sustainable. Although we receive a conveyance allowance it is the time factor that is the biggest concern (2hrs each day).

As the State did not provide a bus service to the JOhn Calvin School in Capel - the parents had no chose but to arrange for the purchase and operation of their own coaster bus to service the school from Australind/Brunswick. All this while multiple orange SBS buses drive past our property each day servicing multiple schools throughout the SW and along much of the same route.

The SBS buses used to service the school from areas as far south as Busselton and as far as Myalup in the north when the school was located in Picton, however when the school moved 20km south to Capel 4 years ago the SBS made a decision to no longer service the school from north of Capel but pay out a conveyance allowance instead.

Please reconsider a bus service to the SW John Calvin School in Capel.