

My name is Bronwyn Gavlik

I have been part of a small group of parents who have been lobbying for a bus service from Toodyay to Swan Christian Collage. One of the parents [REDACTED] has been our constant voice, but unfortunately after years of nock backs, she has given up.

We sent letters to members of parliament, but again were rejected time after time. We pointed out that if we lived in Gin Gin, we would have a very affordable bus that would give our children a number of choices of non-government to attend.

I have added some of the correspondence in the hope that you can see we are desperate for a bus service.

Personally, I have relocated my employment from Toodyay to Perth so that I can transport my children to and from school. I feel less connected to my community which is very sad.

Kind regards

Bronwyn Gavlik

23rd January 2020

It was looking extremely promising with Dingo Busses providing an affordable shared service to Helena College and Swan CC unfortunately Helena College pulled out.

Mundaring Christian have been approached and they will not be doing a shared service either.

The school has approached at least 6 different bus companies and the cost of the service is all similar - approx \$700 per day to run the bus.

As we only have 22 students the bus quoted was for a smaller 22 seater coaster bus which was similar price to the larger bus at the price mentioned above approx \$700.

24th January 2020

1. After speaking to a company they have asked me if the school has looked into financing / leasing a bus for the Toodyay families.
2. They suggested that this would have been one of the first steps the school would have looked into as the costs would be substantially less.
3. The 20% - 30% profit margin a private charter company would charge would be taken out of the equation thus reduce the overall price for families
4. The school would then on charge the families affected a levy within their school fees
5. Immaculate Heart College then employed a retired gentleman whom drove the bus for a token pay rather than \$300 p/d.
6. Has the school contacted the PTA to confirm if there may possibly be pick up point for the Toodyay families to intercept a bus at Gidgegannup?
- 7.

We know they will not provide a conveyancing allowance to get our children to Gidgegannup but if we can reduce the trip that would be a starting point.

I believe they were willing for our children to get on a PTA from Bullsbrook (which is further than Swan CC).

If this request is coming from the school it will have more weight behind it than from individual families.

This would make the service not affordable – from the feedback I was given – for families with more than one child.

As such the school have not committed to a bus for the start of 2020 and will not be financially supporting a bus service from Toodyay.

The school have advised me they have hit a wall and cannot find a solution and suggested carpooling.

I described the difficulties for working families being able to make that happen is a disaster for all concerned.

I did suggest that they give families the opportunity of saying if they are willing to pay a higher price for the interim until another solution is found.

The school believes that the turnaround time of parents getting back to them with a confirmation to secure the service

will not happen in time due to the poor level of response to previous emails sent from the school to parents.

9th March 2020

What was the outcome from school bus services - if we can get students to Gidgegannup on a bus that they can then intercept a School Bus Services bus that currently takes students to La Salle?

Is SCC under contract with Dingo's and as such we need to see the term out with this service?

As 2 x 54 seater buses are currently operating from Toodyay stopping at a majority of the same stops, as resourceful parents we are shaking our heads by the sheer cost to operate these two services, when the parents of both Helena College and Swan are happy to share.

I know you are both time poor and very busy but we really would appreciate an update so we are not feeling the stress of the possibility of no bus and as a result car pooling.

As you are aware the snowball effect of carpooling is VERY real to the parents with possible job losses, reluctant change of employment, reduced working hours and other stressful considerations.

If we do not have a bus for the remainder of the year the impact on families is enormous.

17th March 2020

OPTION 1

I have contacted Helena College with an alternative proposal for a shared service which may alleviate their concerns which related to their inability to supervise students at 8:10am.

The preference is still for a shared service and we are awaiting the Helena College's Business Manager's response to both the requested meeting and to the above.

OPTION 2

Although not ideal - we are trying to get onto the School Bus Services as a Complimentary passenger -

it means you will need to tick NO my child is not enrolled at the nearest appropriate school and YES you wish to apply for Complimentary.

I have given an example of what I have written for the nearest intersection as perhaps the bus comes as far as Morangup!
Anything will be a help, this service is free please see the link below to commence applications/

School Bus Services Metro East have indicated that they may be able to add Swan students from Gidgegannup and Morangup to the La Salle Service and Toodyay SWAN students may also be able to be included.

I know we have looked at this before but at least at this stage we are not being told no – they have said that they will make a decision once applications have been received

The application form is online, <https://www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au/default.aspx> Apply Now which is on the first page.

24th April 2020

By now all the families that had applied to School Bus Services SBS to use the La Salle bus as a complimentary passenger would have received a letter of decline.

I have taken off all the families from this group email that have individually been in touch with myself with regards to the SBS response and where to go from here.

Due to the additional cost of driving a further 4.8kms the SBS will not accept that cost - Terry is following up on this with SBS as have a number of families.

Helena College have declined to share a bus with Swan CC - Terry is still following up on this and has emailed suggestions of how it can work with a bus share option.

Please see the email below from Terry,

We have two options at this stage - **we need to follow through on OPTION 2 ASAP** in case our preferred Option 1 does not happen.