

Established in 1971, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) is a national organisation representing rural students and their families at all stages of education and has a large network of branches throughout Australia.

ICPA WA works within the community to provide support and assistance to rural and regional families across Western Australia. We advocate and lobby to assist families to access appropriate education for their children.

Media Release

23rd August 2021

Orange School Bus Service Review

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA (ICPA WA) welcomes the news that the Minister for Transport has referred the School Bus Services policy to a parliamentary committee for review.

State President, Sally Brindal said "it is welcome news for families throughout WA. ICPA WA have been requesting a review into the School Bus Policy for quite sometime."

"Rural and regional families rely heavily on the Orange School Buses transport assistance program for educational access. In recent times ICPA WA have received numerous concerns from member families regarding the current policy. Many issues received have related to the complimentary and eligible status of children utilising the bus services, as well as school bus routes and safety concerns.

Families are discovering that within the one family business the eligibility for transport assistance to the same school can differ for each family unit depending upon where their residence is located. This is causing a great deal of anxiety to families as their children are separated from their traditional communities.

Access to education is a crucial factor when attracting new families to our already diminishing communities and it is imperative that the School Bus Services policy meets the needs of Western Australian families and reflects the way rural schools and rural communities have changed since the last policy review in 1999".

"We thank the Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti, MLA for her commitment to conduct a full review into the current regulations and guidelines for School Bus Services (SBS). ICPA WA are grateful the inquiry will consult widely with regional Western Australia and encourage all interested parties to make a submission to the inquiry when it opens," Ms Brindal said.

ICPA will continue to advocate for regional parents and students in accessing education. Education is a core role of the WA State Government, as such we appreciate their ongoing commitment.

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