

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR WIN FOR ICPA MEMBER FAMILIES IN BUS SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (ICPA WA) has welcomed School Bus Services' decision to reinstate bus services for two ICPA member schools, following months of advocacy work and years of community-fighting.

ICPA President Jane Cunningham said, "We are thrilled for our members with this outcome and will continue to work with them to ensure these buses are retained."

"Access to a school bus service impacts our families greatly and the limited amount of consultation with these schools, communities, and families needs to be improved".

Yuna mother of three Fiona Mann received an email last month informing her next year the responsibility of transporting her son to his local primary school will lie solely with her, despite her right as a regional parent to be provided with assistance to transport her children to and from school.

Mrs Mann said, "They were asking me to drive a total of 4 hours a day to ensure my son could attend his local appropriate primary school, while also transporting my other sons to a bus stop for transport to their local senior school. The lack of consultation was offensive and disappointing".

"I'm thrilled School Bus Services has come to their senses and the decision to cancel the bus has been reversed for a year and my family's safety and livelihood are no longer under threat".

"This is just not a win for my family, but our whole community. Without access to a bus service, it is extremely difficult to attract workers with young families to our towns".

"We are hopeful we can now work with School Bus Services to reduce the amount of time our little kids spend on the bus and create a better alignment of the two Yuna school buses for the benefit of our community into the future".

Kondinin Primary School has been fighting for a decade to have a school bus service reinstated after its cancellation in 2014.

ICPA WA recently called out for school bus service case studies and was overwhelmed with the response of members around the State frustrated with the current model and unable to change inappropriate decisions.

“It’s simple the current bus services consultation and decision-making process isn’t working and there needs to be more work done to improve it, as our country kids and families’ matter. Transport is a huge issue, it’s not just a case of zipping up the road to drop your kids at school”, Mrs Cunningham said.

“We encourage School Bus Services to reach out and work with us, our members, their schools, school bus advisory committees, and bus contractors, as there is a better way of doing it for all involved”.

For more comments contact:

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