
Travel Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Travel Portfolio Report for 2025.

Last year regarding travel and we had meetings with Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Shadow Minister Regional Transport and Roads, Transport for NSW, Bus NSW, Minister for Agriculture, Regional and Western NSW, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport.

It was 2016 when we first requested the Minister for Transport to give University students travel assistance, like the School Drive Subsidy (SDS) to get to their place of study. You might remember we got the Regional Apprentice and University Student travel fuel card trial introduced in February 2023 but was cancelled in May that year by the Minns Government.

We are told that (apparently) Tertiary students continue to receive generous concession travel arrangements, these include concession fares on all public transport in NSW including all NSW TrainLink services. After meeting with Steve Whan, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education during our deputation in Sydney in September last year we received a copy of the letter from him that he had written to Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads in support of a subsidy for Tertiary students to travel to Uni.

We have been working with TfNSW so Lord Howe Island parents can book a second flight from Sydney to Narrandera for students going to Yanco Agricultural High School and claim part of the cost back. Previously the flight subsidy was only to the mainland and parents had to pay the additional cost. I am pleased to say that in early March this year part of the criteria was changed to “enrolled as a full-time student in a secondary school within NSW from year 7 to year 12”.

Yanco Agricultural High School was notified in September by NSW Trainlink that only students that reside in NSW are eligible to travel on Desi/Holiday buses.

Unfortunately, this means Victorian & Queensland students need to arrange their own transport to and from home to school for Desi and Holidays. We have sent letters to the NSW and QLD Cross Border Commissioners and are waiting for their reply.

The Preschool Drive Subsidy trial commenced in 2022 and was extended for another year and finished in 2023. The last update we have received about whether it will be implemented, is that Transport for NSW continues to work with the Department of Education to finalise the review of the Preschool Drive Subsidy. Outcomes from the review will be provided to the Government for their consideration to inform any further program development and funding decisions. It is anticipated that a summary of review findings will be shared following Government’s consideration of the outcomes.

For further information on Travel Subsidies go to:
transportnsw.info/tickets-opal-eligibility-concessions/school-student-travel

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