

*Note: It is recommended that this Policy be read in conjunction with other ICPA Qld Inc Policy documents.*



## **TRAVEL POLICY**

**POLICY:** THE PROVISION OF READILY AND RELIABLE TRANSPORT OPTIONS TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO ACCESS SCHOOLING AND THE PAYMENT OF TRAVEL ALLOWANCES TO PARENTS OF GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED CHILDREN TO DEFRAID THE COST OF GAINING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

#### **PLACE OF BOARD**

1. That the Remote Area Travel Allowance be increased.
2. That students travelling to a State run boarding facility to attend approved Agricultural based course in lieu of Yr11-12 be eligible for RATrA allowance (2021:F5)
3. That children's rates apply to all full-time school age children travelling on long distance transport.

#### **CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**

3. That realistic Conveyance Allowance:
  - a. Be paid to families more frequently than bi-annually. (2018:S13)
  - b. Reflect the term "trafficable" as a road that can be traversed by vehicle for school access.
4. That a special allowance be paid for travel that is wholly or substantially on unsealed roads.
5. With regards to Conveyance Allowance Classes:
  - a. Class A, C be equally eligible for the Drought Subsidy. (2020:A30)
  - b. Class I continue to be eligible for additional assistance in recognition of the additional travel costs associated with accessing education in their community
  - c. That recipients of a Class I Allowance, who travel on private property between the residence and the boundary, have that distance included in their total kilometres. (2012:A1) (2016:A46) (2017:A30) (2018:A42) (2021:S14) (2023:A39)
  - d. The conveyance allowance be calculated from the home garage – not the property boundary. (2020:S10) (2021:S15) (2022:A45) (2023:A39)
6. That all Queensland school travel allowances are available to:
  - a. Socially disadvantaged Year 6 & 7 students to bypass their nearest school.
  - b. Students who may attend a school but not necessarily the closest, so that they do not incur travel costs.
7. That Bus Conveyancing Committees, communities and schools are consulted, and local knowledge considered in the decision- making process regarding bus routes. (2016:A45) (2019: A43)
8. Ensure the Fare Base Rate of payment for school bus providers reflects real operational costs.

## SCHOOL BUS RUNS

9. That dedicated school buses:
  - a. Be licensed to carry a specified number of children, not a stated number of adults.
  - b. Have seatbelts provided for all children.
  - c. If new, have safety features fitted as a mandatory requirement.
  - d. Require adult passengers, not accessing educational institutions, to have a Blue Card.
  - e. Be flexible when children from the one family have different educational requirements e.g., special needs. (2013:A72)
  
10. That adequate funding is provided for installation and maintenance of air-conditioning in school buses in isolated areas.
  
11. That Kindergarten children are
  - a. a recognised allocation (2023:A40)
  - b. are funded on school bus runs (2023:A40)
  - c. reflected in the current School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) policy. (2012:A2) (2014:A57) (2019:A45, S14) (2020:A32)(2022:A48) (2023:A40)
  - d. provided with funding to access transport to enable students to meet the Universal Access Policy guidelines.
  - e. subject to clear guidelines to facilitate travel on unseatbelted buses should they be under 4 years of age (2022:A49)
  - f. able to receive Conveyance Allowance should they be ineligible/unable to travel on a school bus (2023:A41)
  
12. That Queensland Transport:
  - a. Rule that distance from a school or bus service for Distance Eligible students be the same for Primary and Secondary students. E.g. 3.2 km (2018:A43)
  - b. provides appropriate financial funding for the School bus routes which are under their jurisdiction.(2023:A38)
  - c. review the current bus upgrade policy to include subsidised bus routes. (2013:A74)
  - d. has flexibility in considering individual circumstances in relation to bus travel and the future viability of a kilometre-based school base service is assessed on a 3 -year future prediction. (2013:A74);
  - e. reduce the number of students needed to keep a school bus run open. (2014:A54) (2021:A43)
  - f. review the extension criteria for rural and remote bus runs (2014:A56)
  - g. Collaborate with all relevant departments to ensure that the flow on effects for community sustainability not be impaired with the closure of bus runs. (2016:F2)
  - h. instigate a separate category of rural and remote school bus runs, reflecting the unique operational circumstances, in order to facilitate ongoing, uninterrupted service. (2020:A29)
  - i. ensure that rural and remote bus drivers/owners are being paid for children that are absent from their bus due to matters beyond their control (2022:A47) (2023:A38)
  
13. That all levels of government prioritise road maintenance and repairs on roads under their responsibility that are part of school bus routes (2021:A42)
  
14. That school bus service/s:
  - a. continue where needed even when 'exceptional circumstances' reduces numbers. (2013:A74) (2018:A44)
  - b. are able to lie dormant for a period of time allowing for population fluctuations. (2014:A55) (2021:A43)
  - c. extensions and changes to be approved on a case-by-case basis and not by restrictive kilometre based and approved cost components. (2019:A41)

15. That travel assistance available for students with disabilities is advertised more fully by Education Queensland.
16. That the Department of Education assume responsibility, from Translink, for bus runs and routes in rural and remote areas. (2021:A44) (2023:F2)

#### **OTHER TRANSPORT**

18. That post compulsory students who attend Government approved training centres are counted as being eligible to be transported to and from the Vocational Training location which delivers Certificate Courses. (2017:S34)
19. That Translink and the Department of Transport and Main Road develop policies on bus safety, travel, and route cancellation in consultation with relevant rural and remote community representation. (2018:A45,F7)
20. That Queensland transport
  - a. creates a student subsidised travel scheme for geographically isolated students and ensures that student concessional travel is available on all subsidised passenger services in Queensland. ( and remains available should service providers change). (2015:A29,S12) (2017:A31,S33) (2018:A41) (2020:A31)
  - b. ensures one way, local resident fares for student travel be able to be purchased on subsidised services either online or through local booking agencies (2022:A50)
  - c. ensures timetable changes on subsidised routes take into consideration the impact on travel for students travelling to/from boarding school (2022:S27)
21. That bus companies allow free travel for chaperones on all bus service routes for rural students using bus transportation to access education. (2019: A44)
  - a. That Translink ensures this by developing a policy for its mandatory inclusion in any contracts awarded for bus transport services.

#### **DISTANCE EDUCATION**

#### **SPORT**

#### **OTHER**

24. That endorsement for projects supporting the maintenance/upgrade of roads for access to education be given if requested by relevant stakeholders. (2018:S15)

