

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

TRAVEL REPORT

Elaine Egan – Portfolio Holder, March 2018

Motion S1: Regarding students aged 12 to 15 years of age travelling on TransWA buses, that they not be classified as Unaccompanied Students, therefore not requiring a Travel Authorisation for Unaccompanied Child Form to be completed by parents. Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA replied in writing back in August 2017 and stated that TransWA have reviewed the Carriage of Unaccompanied Children Policy, focusing on the conditions of travel, including the age boundaries. The safety and comfort of minors using public transport is paramount. TransWA rail and bus services stop along the route for refreshments and for other passengers to board and disembark. These stops represent potential points of vulnerability for unaccompanied students. The age boundaries of unaccompanied students will remain unchanged, that being 15 and under.

In August, Qantas announced a 12 month trial period of a discounted airfares scheme for residents of selected regional towns in WA. Qantas will offer return flight discounts of up to 30% for people living in 6 regional centres from November: Broome, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Paraburdoo, Port Hedland and Newman. Passengers are restricted to purchasing four discounted flights per year, and the airfares are only available for personal travel. To book these discounted fares, passengers need to be a frequent flyer member. Qantas have waived the Frequent Flyer joining fee for those not already a member.

In February 2018 ICPA Australia made a submission, with ICPA WA giving input, into the Federal Government Senate Enquiry into the Operation, Regulation and Funding of Air Route Service Delivery to Rural, Regional and Remote Communities. The report will be finalised on 30th March 2018, with the finds released soon after.

Esperance ICPA Branch has worked with HelloWorld Esperance and Rex Airlines to get an Esperance Boarder's flight - \$510 return for the 3 boarders' weekends, organised Jan/Feb and paid in advance.

February 2018 there were Administrative changes to the Student Subsidised Travel Scheme. For students claiming travel refunds:

- Student fare refund claims from parents or guardians must be submitted to On-demand Transport no later than one (1) month after the last date of travel on your e-ticket in order to receive a refund. Refunds will not be processed for claims that are not received within this timeframe.
- Road travel claims must be received by 31 January for the previous year. For example, refund claims for 2018 school year, must be submitted by 31 January 2019.
- Student fare refund claims from parents or guardians must be submitted by email to ondemandtransport@transport.wa.gov.au. E-mailed claims are required to ensure your payment is processed as quickly as possible.
- Claims will not be approved unless the travel undertaken is the cheapest fare to the relevant destination and the most direct route is taken (unless an indirect route can be demonstrated to be more cost effective).