

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Transport
Leader of the House

Level 10, Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
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Phone: 03 6165 9405 | Email: Minister.Abetz@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ms Helen Burnet MP
Member for Clark
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

05 SEP 2024


Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your letter of 22 July 2024 and constituent question asked on 8 August regarding bus travel for students of St Francis Flexible School.

The school recently wrote to the Government on this matter. Please find enclosed a copy of my response for your information.

Thank you for raising these matters with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Eric Abetz MP

Minister for Transport

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Mr Nathan Volf
Director of Wellbeing Practice
St Francis Flexible School
Email Nathan.volf@ereafsn.edu.au

Mr Nick McGann
Principal
St Francis Flexible School
Email Nick.mcgann@ereafsn.edu.au

Dear Mr Volf and Mr McGann

Thank you for your letter to the Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Education, dated 17 July 2024, regarding students at St Francis Flexible School accessing bus travel. As the Minister for Transport, I am responding to your letter on behalf of the Tasmanian Government. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I would like to commend you on the great work you and your fellow educators do at St Francis Flexible School to support young people who have had difficulty accessing education through the conventional school system.

The Tasmanian Government offers transport-related concessions to eligible Tasmanians who may be on low income, living with disability, or travelling to school in a rural area.

The Student Bus Pass for Free Travel program offers free travel for full-time students aged under 18 travelling between home and school, and return. Most students who use the Student Bus Pass for Free Travel are eligible because they hold, or are listed as a dependant, on a current government concession card. Eligible government concession cards include Centrelink Health Care Cards, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Cards, and Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Cards. Eligibility is also open to students who are under a Care and Protection Order. This may be applicable to some of your students who are unable to access their identity documents.

There is also a Special Circumstances Bus Pass category for free or discounted travel for students older than 18 who did not have the opportunity to finish the equivalent of two years post-year 10 study due to circumstances outside their control.

More information about these bus passes, the eligibility requirements, and how to apply is available by visiting the Transport website at:
https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/public_transport/student_travel/student_bus_pass_for_free_travel
or phone 03 6166 3343.

As with all government concessions programs, evidence that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria is mandatory to ensure programs are administered equitably and transparently. The Tasmanian Government does not intend to introduce any exemptions or alternatives to the existing Student Bus Pass for Free Travel program by authorising free travel on Metro services by use of student ID alone.

However, as you may be aware, we have halved all public transport bus and ferry fares to 30 June 2025 delivering immediate cost of living support. For students this means that the cost of each trip is now \$1 or 80 cents using a GreenCard.

I am advised that students can obtain a GreenCard from Metro Tasmania with a current St Francis Flexible School ID card. Metro was unaware of your students having trouble obtaining a GreenCard but I encourage students or their parents to contact Metro on 13 22 01 (7am – 6pm, Monday to Friday) or at contact@metrotas.com.au if they require assistance.

Thank you again for your enquiry and I trust this information is useful to your students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', is positioned above the printed name.

Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Transport

CC: Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Education