

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 June 2021 9:14 PM
To: schoolbusesinquiry
Subject: Community use of school buses around Yarram

Categories: Submission to be processed

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. My autistic son and myself live in a small town, Woodside, which is nearly 20km from our nearest town with shops, which is Yarram, in Sth West Gippsland.

My son gets the bus for school-sometimes I drive in to pick him up. He may have to finish school soon, as it is becoming too hard for him. Therefore he would like to get a job, even for just a few hours a week.

I think it would be great to see our school buses (I think there are about 10 in the area around Yarram), used at different times of the day, even if they just service the areas around Yarram. It would certainly let my son be more independent, and offer him more opportunity to get to a workplace. I am an older mother [REDACTED] I don't think it a good thing for my boy to have his mum drive him to work and back. It's not a good thing for me, either, as I suffer chronic lower back pain, and am unable to be upright all day.

The school bus drivers who take our kids into Yarram are well known and trusted. We have no public transport at all in Woodside, or indeed, around Yarram, and all other areas around Yarram. We need something to help us in our communities to become mobile. If I have to take my car to be looked at in Yarram, I have to rely on another person to get me home, then back into Yarram, when my car is (hopefully) fixed, to pick it up. Just imagine having no public transport at all!

There is a v-line bus to Traralgon, but you've got to be able to get to Yarram first, as the bus leaves from Yarram. The v-line bus is not very frequent, and there is another v-line bus to Melbourne, which takes 4 hours.

We cannot afford housing in Yarram-I am on a disability support pension. House prices have skyrocketed, as we all know. I am still paying off my small house in Woodside.

As my son is on the spectrum, he is afraid to get his drivers licence. I don't know when, or if he'll be able to do so. He also has type 1 (insulin dependent) Diabetes, which also makes it hard to obtain a drivers licence.

So I am writing about using school buses during the day to help my son, myself, my neighbours, and many others who live in or around Yarram, and desperately need transport. People are getting older around Yarram, and we can't all drive forever. Conversely there are many young people in and around Yarram-many of whom can't get work as they can't drive, and there is literally no public transport, in and around Yarram, to even link up with v-line buses.

Please let us use school buses, not just for school, because we don't have Any public transport.

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Sent from my iPad