

## Transport Assistance Program Information for Parents and Carers

*The Transport Assistance program provides transport for eligible children and students with a disability to access their special preschool or school, disability unit or special class. This service does not replace a parental responsibility to ensure children attend their preschool or school.*

### Eligibility criteria

#### To be eligible a child must be:

- Enrolled in a government special preschool or school, unit or class.
- Attending a special option located outside their local preschool or school.
- Living 5 or more kilometres from their special option.
- A participant of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) with a current plan that includes a support item for school transport.

### Types of travel assistance available

#### 1. Financial assistance

- Daily allowance to support the use of a motor vehicle for transport between home and school.
- Reimbursement of fees paid for travel to and from school on licensed private bus services in regional areas.
- Passenger transport grant paid annually to support travel to and from school via public transport.

#### 2. Direct assistance

- Taxi, contracted bus or access vehicle (at no cost to parent or carer) for a return trip on each school day between the student's home and school.
- Direct assistance is only available between an eligible student's home and their special option.
- A maximum of 2 addresses may be approved for each eligible student.

### Exceptions to travel assistance options

To promote child safety and wellbeing, direct assistance will only be considered when students are at least 6 years old, can travel safely without supervision, the journey is less than an hour and there are 2 or more students being transported.

If a student is unable to access direct assistance for any of the above reasons, or a service provider or driver is unavailable, then the parent or carer will be offered financial assistance for transporting their child to and from school.

### Annual Review

A review is conducted at the end of each school year. If a student is identified to be potentially travelling alone, direct assistance may cease and financial assistance may be offered.

## **Parent or carer responsibilities**

**As a parent or carer, you have the following obligations when your child accesses direct assistance:**

- Ensure the school has 2 current emergency phone numbers and update them if they change.
- Check the vehicle's badge daily (eg 13CABS or Suburban) and the ID on the dashboard for any new drivers.
- Provide and install AU/NZS 1754 safety restraints if legally required by your child.
- Help your child in and out of the vehicle, if needed, to minimise the driver's physical contact with your child.
- Notify the taxi or bus company as soon as possible if your child is not attending school that day.
- Have your child ready for pick-up each morning. Vehicles will wait no more than 2 minutes. Drivers are not permitted to leave the vehicles or sound the horn.
- Have a responsible adult present at the time and place of drop-off, to avoid your child being returned to school.
- Never make private arrangements with the driver for changes to pick-up or drop-off addresses. Form ED039B (temporary) or ED039A (permanent) must be completed if alternative arrangements are needed.
- Communicate with driver respectfully.
- Contact school staff about any concerns.

## **Feedback and complaints**

Visit [www.education.sa.gov.au](http://www.education.sa.gov.au) and search for 'feedback' and complaints about a school or preschool.

**Mid North Education Centre**

**(08) 8632 1091**