

As a bus driver in Esperance I have over 30 years experience in the industry and town. Some of the issues I face in my role include:

Bus Services aren't advertising the need for parents to register their children earlier enough so that Bus Services can look ahead and preemptively increase bus capacity into areas they are required or are going to be required. Parents should be registering their children at least two or three years before they go to school so that Bus Services can stay ahead of demand, at the moment they are behind. On my route there are at least 10 kids who are unable to get on the bus.

Lack of capacity on my bus and the route has been a big issue. The 10 children mentioned above can't get on the bus as it is operating at max capacity. There were recently 5 houses built along the route and on top of that there are people who buy houses along the route that have children. As the bus is currently at capacity I am concerned about the future needs of families that buy into the area.

I have raised my concerns to both Bus Services and my boss however there has been no action to rectify or plan ahead. I am on the front lines of this issue as a bus driver and parents approach me asking why they can't get their children on my bus. It is difficult when there are answers for me to tell them.

In summary the route I drive is currently at capacity and has even recently been expanded, this expansion fails to address future increase in need for service in the area. I would encourage Bus Services to advertise to parents earlier about registering their children, I believe this would go some way towards future planning on the routes and therefore address issues with capacity before they become an issue with parents unable to get their children on board.