

CATHERINE McAULEY COLLEGE STUDENT TRAVELLERS PROGRESSING TO ST MARY'S CAMPUS

Existing country bus student travellers who require in 2021 **MUST renew or reapply** for travel, depending on their circumstances.

- If you are attending the same school and/or school campus, then you simply RENEW your travel for 2021.
- If you are changing school or campus, then you must apply for NEW travel.

This means that for Year 9 Catherine McAuley College students who are progressing to the St Mary's campus, a new travel application MUST BE COMPLETED online via SBMS.

To do this, simply log into your SBMS account and click on the NEW APPLICATIONS tab beside the student's name and follow the prompts.

Applications for 2021 country bus travel will open in Term 4 and SBMS will process these applications in December where, if approved for travel, a travel offer will be made (in your SBMS account) which you will need to ACCEPT to complete the process.

**For assistance with SBMS applications,
please contact DoT's Customer Help Centre on 1800 800 007.**

Bendigo School Bus Coordination Office

Ph. 4433 4317

SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Education & Training's Bendigo School Bus Program (SBP) provides **approved** students with the opportunity to travel to school on a suitable country bus service that best meets their needs. The Coordinating School for the program is Bendigo South East Secondary College.

These services are not public services. Families must apply and students must be approved for travel.

Students residing within 1.6km of public transport that meets their school times, are required to use it. They will not be eligible for travel on a country bus. For more information about public transport, please contact Department of Transport (formerly PTV) – their Hub is located at the Marketplace in Bendigo.

APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL ON AN SBP COUNTRY BUS SERVICE

Applications for permanent travel on an SBP (country bus) service, are made using DoT's online School Bus Management System (SBMS) which automatically assesses a student's eligibility against the Department's School Bus Program policy.

NB. Existing students are required to RENEW their travel for the next year. Students moving to a new school/school campus, are required to submit a NEW application.

Please contact your school for more information on how to apply or renew for travel on a country bus.

Eligibility

A snapshot of the policy's eligibility criteria is detailed below:

- To be eligible for free government travel on a country bus
 - A student must reside 4.8km or more from, and attending their nearest designated neighbourhood school (an Application for Permission to Travel form applies)
 - If public transport is available within 1.6km of their home or closer to their home than the nearest school bus service, students are required to use public transport
- Students bypassing their nearest designated neighbourhood school, may be granted travel on a country bus if:
 - Students with priority access are accommodated first
 - There is spare seating capacity on the service
 - A payment of \$120 per term per child is paid
 - This fare is not applied on a pro-rata basis

If a student changes residence, school or school campus, and they still require country bus travel, a **new online application must be submitted**. It cannot be presumed that the previous eligibility assessment and bus service route/stop and transfers, still apply.