

8 October, 2015

68 Adelaide Road, PO Box 820
Mount Barker SA 5251
ABN 54 858 405 236

'A school of the Lutheran Church'

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Bus Services for eligible Cornerstone College Students in 2016

Families wanting to apply for access to the DECD bus services in 2016 are requested to please note the eligibility* guidelines set by Mount Barker High School (MTBHS). Please also ensure the DECD bus routes service your residential location.

For further information on DECD eligibility guidelines and route descriptions please visit the MTBHS website; http://www.mtbhs.sa.edu.au/our_school/school_bus_service.

Please note an application form is needed each year per student applying. Each application form will incur a one off, non-refundable Government fee of \$20.00 that will be charged to your College term fees. It is recommended that families only complete an application form if their child meets the eligibility guidelines and are in an area that is serviced by the DECD buses, to avoid unnecessary charges.

MTBHS has requested an early application date and supplied the College with 2 different application forms. There is a form for students who will be in Years 8-12 in 2016, and the other is for students who will be in Year 7 in 2016. The application forms have been attached to this communication. Please return the relevant application form/s direct to Cornerstone College by **Wednesday, 21 October 2015**. The College will keep a backup record for families and forward the original to Mount Barker High School for processing.

Approval for access to DECD bus services in 2016 will be in accordance with the DECD School Transport Policy. Please note the application form does not guarantee approval to travel on DECD buses. The decision for approval will then be communicated by MTBHS to the College. Historically it has taken the first two weeks of Term 1 for MTBHS to accurately determine and allocate bus seating. The College will then inform families if their child has been approved for travel. With this time frame taken into consideration, the College suggests families who require DECD services find alternative transport until the decision from MTBHS can be communicated by the College to the families who applied.

For more information, contact Ms Susy Izzo on 8398 6015 or via email on sizzo@cornerstone.sa.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Mr Craig Fielke
Principal

Eligibility* for Non MTBHS students in Years 8 to 12: Distance - Students attending a non-government secondary school are eligible to use a DECD bus service if they live more than five kilometres from the nearest government secondary school - that is their school of right: Mt Barker High School. Usage - Students must use the bus regularly to maintain eligibility to travel on the bus (ie. travel on the service more than 50% of the time).

Eligibility* for Non MTBHS students in Year 7: In accordance with the DECD School Transport Policy, primary aged students (Reception - Year 7) who have chosen to bypass their local Government primary school and require access to DECD school buses, will not be approved to travel, unless spare seats are available on DECD school buses and they also meet the distance, and usage eligibility requirements as per students in Years 8-12s.