



4 October 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Bus Services in 2017

Families wanting to apply for access to the DECD bus services in 2017 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 2017, and the other is for students who will be in Year 7 in 2017. The application forms have been attached to this communication. Please return the relevant application form/s direct to Cornerstone College by **Friday, 21 October 2016**. Late Submissions may result in a lack of seat availability. 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 2017 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 three 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 consider alternative transport until the decision from MTBHS can be communicated by the College to the families who applied.

Proposed changes to the Wistow DECD Bus:

MTBHS informed the College they have conducted a review on the DECD bus that services the Wistow area. It is proposed that at the start of Term 4, 2016, the bus will be reduced to a 30 seater (not allowing allocated space for ineligible students) and it will also run an alternative route and pick up conditions. Please contact MTBHS direct on 8391 1599 to discuss these changes to the Wistow bus.

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 to 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 must then also meet the distance, and usage eligibility requirements as per students in Years 8-12s.