

School Transport Safety Task Force Fact Sheet 8

New Bus Initiatives

School Bus Transport Census

Queensland Transport will be undertaking a "snapshot" audit of the number of school bus passengers by conducting a census on the peak loadings (including standees) of all scheduled service bus services in May 2001.

The school transport census will seek the following information from bus operators providing school services:

- the type and age of the vehicle, school/s serviced and seat configuration (including seatbelt detail where fitted);
- the number of standees, and the distance and road speed limits in which they are carried; and
- the number of primary or pre-school children seated "3 for 2", and the distance and road speed limits in which they are carried.

Follow-up telephone interviews will be conducted with selected operators (identified through their census returns) to gain further detail on the operating environment where standees are present or "3 for 2" seating is utilised.

Mt Lindsay Highway Standee Trial

Queensland Transport and Park Ridge Transit are currently conducting a trial of new standee initiatives on buses operating in the Jimboomba area. The trial involves ensuring that there is a minimum of one accessible handhold per standee, with no more than five standing passengers per square metre of floor space.

Under the trial, buses carrying standees will be restricted to 80 km/hr (from 100 km/hr), and prohibited from using roads where the speed limit is greater than 100 km/hr or unsealed or one lane two way roads with a speed limit of 100 km/hr. The maximum distance that a standee can travel has also been reduced from 20 km to 16 km.