

19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## Changes to School Bus Services Survey

### Summary of Report

The results of the survey demonstrate that approximately 65% of respondents have been impacted by the changes to the school bus services which came into effect in 2014 with the roll out of the new Network 14 bus schedule. There is a high level of frustration by parents that journeys by bus are now taking a lot longer and that children are missing out on the opportunities for after school sport.

### Background of Respondents

The survey was sent out to all non-government schools in the ACT and was not sent out to public schools. We received 250 completed surveys and approximately 90% of parents surveyed stated that their children caught the bus on a regular basis. The majority of the respondents caught the bus all of the time (64%) a smaller number caught the bus frequently (25%) and a small minority rarely caught the bus (11%).

### Change to mode of Transport

Less than 30% of respondents are still using a school bus service and 55% are now either using a car to take their children to school or a combination of car/lift with friends. This has resulted in more cars on the roads as well as more children being picked up or dropped off at schools, in areas that are already crowded and over used.

### Conclusion

The results of the survey are indicative that a large number of parents have been severely impacted by the changes to school services. In an environment where we are keen to have less cars on the roads and more children on buses to ease congestion around schools, the changes appear to have had the opposite effect. In addition the results indicate that we have less children doing sport as they are no longer able to arrive home in time which does not assist a society where we are trying to get children more involved in sport.