

# Free Bus Travel

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This policy relates to all buses under contract to the Northern Territory Government for the provision of public and school bus services.

From January 2009 all seniors, pensioners, carers, students and First Response Patrol Unit employees on duty travel for free on the Territory's public and / or school bus network. This is in addition to the existing free travel already available to children under the age of 5 years, persons presenting a vision impaired travel pass and any Veterans' Affairs 'Gold Card' holders.

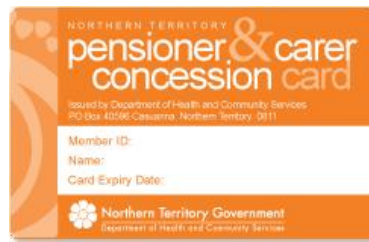
The provision of free bus services is expected to boost the number of people using public buses, cut travel costs for more people, reduce carbon emissions and help Green the Territory.

## Seniors, Pensioners and Carers

To gain access to free bus travel throughout the public bus network, persons holding any of the following cards are to present them to the bus driver:

- Australian Government Seniors' Card
- Northern Territory Government Pensioner and Carer Concession Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Valid Australian Government issued pensioner concession card.

## Card Examples



## Card Holders Not Eligible for Free Transport

Health Care Cards and non-Australian Government issued seniors' cards (i.e. National Seniors' Cards) are not eligible for free travel.

### **Vision Impaired Card Holders**

A person presenting a vision impaired travel pass is entitled to free travel on the public bus network.

### **Veterans' Affairs 'Gold Cards'**

A person presenting any Veterans' Affairs 'Gold Card' is entitled to free travel on the public bus network.

### **First Response Patrol Unit Employees**

The First Response Patrol Unit works with the NT Police and other organisations to patrol anti-social behaviour hot spots. To support this role, free travel on the public bus network is extended to all employees on duty.

### **Students**

From Tuesday 27 January 2009, all students attending primary school (including transition) through to university (studying part-time or full-time) can travel for free 7 days per week on all scheduled services on the Territory's existing school and public bus network.

#### **School Bus Network**

Free school bus travel will be provided to primary (including transition), middle and high school students only on existing school buses.

Students are encouraged to use alternative methods to get to and from school such as walking or cycling, should buses be at capacity and the distance to travel is short.

### Public Bus Network

Free bus travel on scheduled services 7 days per week will be provided for all part-time and full-time students attending Australian educational facilities. This includes:

- Primary (including transition), middle and senior high school students
- University students
- TAFE students
- VET students.

This excludes International Student Card holders.

### Identification for Students to access Free Bus Travel

To access free bus travel on the public bus network, students should either wear a school uniform (if applicable) or have identification as follows:

- primary school students (including transition) do not need to provide ID;
- middle school students, if not in uniform, should present their Student ID Card to the driver if applicable;
- senior school students if not in uniform, should present their Student ID Card to the driver;
- university, TAFE and VET students (both part-time and full-time) must present their Student ID Card to the driver.

Students travelling on the dedicated school bus network are not required to present their Student ID Card.

### Examples of Student Cards



### Bus Passes

The school bus pass system has been superseded with this new policy.

### Exemptions

At the beginning of the school year, some schools are unable to issue Student ID Cards immediately. Therefore, for the first six weeks of the school year students will be able to board both the school and public bus network for free without presenting a Student ID Card.

After the six-week period at the beginning of the school year, senior school and university students who are unable to produce a Student ID Card while travelling on the public bus network will be charged the full adult fare rate. The current fare is \$2.00 for three hours travel. On producing a Student ID Card, they will then be entitled to free bus travel.

Free travel for students excludes school-based excursions on both the public and school bus network.

International Student Cards are not accepted and international students are not entitled to free bus travel.

#### Not a Student but Under 18 Years Old

A passenger under 18 years of age who does not attend school, university, TAFE or VET will be required to pay the full adult fare (currently \$2.00 for three hours travel).

#### Pre-school Students

Pre-school students or equivalent are not eligible to catch the school bus. Children under the age of 5 years are able to catch the public bus network for free if accompanied by a parent / carer.

#### Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel

##### *School Bus Network*

The Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel is in place to deal with misbehaviour of students on the school bus network. A copy of the Code and Procedures are located at [www.nt.gov.au/transport/public/schools](http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/public/schools)

##### *Public Bus Network*

If the matter is of a non-serious nature, the bus driver is able to address any anti-social issue. If it is of a serious nature, Transit Security Officers will be called to assist. For further information on the role of a Transit Security Officer please refer to [www.nt.gov.au/transport/public/transitofficers](http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/public/transitofficers)

#### Children under the Age of 5 Years

Children under the age of 5 years are able to catch the public bus network for free if accompanied by a parent/ carer.

For more information please contact the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Public Transport Division on telephone **8924 7845** or visit [www.nt.gov.au/transport](http://www.nt.gov.au/transport)