



**Queensland Bus Industry Council Inc.**

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## **Media Release**

### **Extra buses needed to stop school bus overcrowding**

The peak body representing Queensland's bus industry says overcrowding on school buses will continue, and some children may be left at bus stops, unless more seats are allocated to bus operators.

The Queensland Bus Industry Council (QBIC) said Sunday night's media report on Nine News about a child that was left at a bus stop, only told part of the story.

QBIC executive director David Tape said bus operators and drivers must operate the vehicle in a safe manner and are required under legislation not to overload vehicles.

"We have had buses pulled up by transport inspectors, and the operator and driver face penalties if the vehicle is overloaded. What should a driver do if a child wants to board a bus that is clearly already at its capacity?" he asked.

"We cannot be obligated to take every passenger while at the same time be obligated to operate the vehicle in a safe manner and not have an overload situation.

"We are damned if we do and damned if we don't!"

He said the only answer is for the State Government to allocate more buses where known capacity issues exist. "There is a cost associated with that."

"Bottom line is that bus operators cannot be held accountable for network capacity issues, as the type, specification and capacity of buses is approved by the State.

"The solution is simple, but until it happens the issue of overcrowding won't stop, and no one can guarantee that a child will not be refused a ride on a bus that is already at capacity.

"Operators and drivers must abide by the law."

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