



Christmas Island school bus service

Number: D04/24 **Date:** 30 January 2024

Relevant: Christmas Island

Topic: CI school bus service disruption

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts regrets to inform the Christmas Island school community that the school bus service will not operate for the initial period of the new school year, while a new bus service is established. The school bus service is run by the Department and in 2023 was contracted to a local company. It is not run by the school.

This change applies from **31 January 2024**.

Further to the advice we provided to the community on 7 December 2023, the contract with the school bus service provider concluded at the end of 2023. This contract was unable to be extended, with a recent approach to market to supply the service being unsuccessful. The Department applies the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to all its tender processes.

We are working to establish a new bus service for the school community as a priority, but it will take time. We are also investigating whether any temporary arrangements are able to be put in place.

In the meantime, the school community is encouraged to make alternative arrangements for student transport. We encourage the use of healthy alternatives like riding and walking, with appropriate road safety and supervision as needed.

The Department acknowledges and apologises for the significant impact this disruption will have on parents and carers, students, the school and the broader community. Please be assured we are working to resume a school bus service as soon as possible. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and flexibility.

The school community will be provided a further update in six weeks, as we continue to address this issue, including on whether any interim arrangements may be possible in the short term.

Adam Stankevicius, Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch