



Speech by

**JULIE ATTWOOD**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Hansard 17 November 1998

**BUS SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY, MOUNT OMMANEY ELECTORATE**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.19 a.m.): I reply to the comments of the member for Gregory to honourable members on Thursday, 12 November, in relation to bus subsidy eligibility. Contrary to the statements of the member, I have supported the constituents of the Mount Ommaney electorate in relation to the retention of bus subsidies for sending their children outside the Centenary area to continue their schooling.

Prior to the State election, I sent out a survey to all residents of the Centenary suburbs to get an idea of the number of people affected and the cost disadvantage. When elected on 13 June, I sent a letter to the Minister for Transport, Steve Bredhauer, requesting consideration of the continuation of bus subsidies and spoke to his staff frequently about the subject, asking for some concession to be granted. I approached the Minister personally in Parliament on several occasions and at the Ipswich Community Cabinet meeting. I convened a meeting with the members of the affected P & C associations from Toowong, Corinda, Kenmore and Centenary to ask what further assistance I could provide. On many occasions I spoke to Transport officials and called Education officials into my office at Parliament House to ask whether some relief could be provided and whether any precedents of this type had been set. The Transport Department officials said that they were not notified of the former member for Mount Ommaney's promise and said that it could not be achieved. The Minister recently advised me that he has again clarified that fact.

Transport officials advise me that a concession is available for people who are in receipt of a Federal Government pension or benefit. They said that people in neighbouring Sinnamon Park have never been able to receive a subsidy. I have not stopped pursuing the issue and have tabled a petition in Parliament today. Written submissions are forwarded regularly, with my support, to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education. The Minister for Transport and the people in Mount Ommaney will attest to my persistence in lobbying on this issue.

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