



**Buses too small to pick up all students
30 January 2006**

A year is insufficient time for the Education Department to adapt school buses and routes to pick up all children on the route.

A Greenpatch family whose third child started at Port Lincoln Junior Primary School this week was informed by a letter dated 23rd January 2006 that there is no room on the bus for the third child.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said it is a ridiculous situation when two children can go on the bus but the third will have to be driven to Port Lincoln.

“The Education Department regularly surveys numbers for future student enrolments therefore bus requirements would have been known early last year.

“My constituents are angry that this issue has been left until now to be addressed when the Education Department has known for more than 12 months the number of students that will require bus transport into Port Lincoln from the Greenpatch area.

“It is also intolerable that the issue has been handballed to school staff who then have to take the flak for a situation not of their making and not their responsibility,” she said.

Another parent who has concerns about the Greenpatch school bus and routes conservatively estimates that eight to 10 more children will be requiring transport in the next three to five years

Mrs Penfold said Education Department management was hardly up to the 21st Century when it takes longer to arrange school bus pickups than to have a baby.