



# Using public and community transport

## Did you know that children travelling on buses are at most risk when getting on and off the bus?

This is because young people decide to cross the road either in front of or behind the bus before the bus has left. With not being able to clearly see oncoming traffic they are risk of being hit by another passing vehicle.

**The risks with public transport use can also change depending on where you live.**

### In country areas

Despite School Bus Services and regional Shires joint efforts to minimise approving bus stops in dangerous conditions, in country areas children and drivers may be faced with issues such as:

- lack of appropriate verge or road shoulder for the bus to stop
- bus stops might be difficult to see
- children getting off the bus may need to cross roads where the speed of traffic is generally faster and the types of vehicles are larger
- bends in roads, trees and bushes make it hard for children to see oncoming traffic.

### In city areas

Young people often have to deal with more traffic and there are more passengers getting on and off buses and trains.

**You can help your child by talking about ways to be a responsible and courteous bus and train passenger, and by practising these rules with your child when next you use public transport.**

- Always stand well away from the kerb or platform when waiting for a bus or train.
- Stand back and wait for passengers to get off the bus or train before you board.
- Wait until the bus has moved away before crossing the road (Stop, look, listen, think).
- Stand clear of the doorways before getting off a bus or train.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus or train at all times.
- Keep your belongings on your lap.
- Put your seatbelt on if the bus is fitted with these.
- Always use overpasses, underpasses or pedestrian crossing areas to cross the tracks at a railway station. Never walk across the tracks.
- Don't run, ride or skate around a bus stop or railway platform.
- Keep clear of electric wires above a train track. Contact may result in death.



### I can act responsibly and safely when I travel on public transport by:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sometimes young people can be encouraged by their friends to behave unsafely on and around public transport. Check that your child feels confident enough to tell their friends 'no' when it is situation where they might get injured.**

Thank you for playing a vital role in your child's road safety education.