

Free Metro Travel for Tertiary Students



Cassy O'Connor MP | Greens' Leader

Removing barriers for students is critical for improving their opportunities through higher education. Free bus travel will reduce cost of living pressure and ease traffic congestion.

In an age of automation and rapid technological development tertiary education has become increasingly important for future employment prospects of young people.

Public transport costs for Tasmanian students can be anywhere between \$15 and \$55 a week.¹ At an Austudy² and rent assistance³ combined income of \$290.90 per week, this can be up to 20% of a student's weekly budget.

For a relatively low cost to the State Budget, we can relieve pressure on the cost of living for Tasmanian students and ease traffic congestion.

We will provide all students in the post-compulsory education sector, including university and TasTAFE, free access to Metro Tasmania's public transport services.

THE GREENS WILL

- ▲ Provide free Metro fares for tertiary students.

FREE TERTIARY STUDENT FARES

Transport affordability can impact on the capacity of students to participate, particularly for the many students who need to balance living in outer-metropolitan areas where housing may be cheaper, with longer and more expensive commutes to their education campus.

The Greens will provide free transport for Department of Education recognised providers of post-compulsory education.

This measure will also ease congestion during peak travel times which has escalated over the Liberals' term in government.

Approved student ID, such as University of Tasmania or TasTAFE cards, will be shown on boarding for free fares.

INITIATIVE COST

Initiative Investment (\$m)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Fares costs	0.99	1.01	1.04	1.06
Total	0.99	1.01	1.04	1.06

REFERENCES

1. Future Unlimited studyinaustralia.gov.au, *Living Costs in Australia*.
2. Department of Human Services, *'How much Austudy can you get?'*, Australian Government.
3. Department of Human Services, *'Commonwealth Rent Assistance'*, Australian Government.