

BOB KATTER

Katter's Australian Party

Federal Member for Kennedy



MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2018

School bus program needs a funding pick-up

KAP Leader and Federal Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has written to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs urging them to provide funding to the Young People Ahead (YPA) organisation, in Mount Isa. YPA needs two additional mini-buses to help get children to school.

Mr Katter recently met with Debra Woodward from YPA to discuss the vital service.

He said, "They currently have a 10 seater bus, they use this and a few cars they have to pick up as many children as possible and take them to school. Mount Isa has no public bus service and limited school bus services. These children would not attend school if they were not picked up by YPA and dropped at school.

"YPA are struggling to keep up with the demand and hate having to say no to people, but unfortunately they do not have the resources required to help get as many children to school as possible.

"This is extremely important to the community of Mount Isa, funding to purchase an additional two busses is crucial in ensuring our young people are receiving an education. "

YPA focuses on early intervention and working with young people who present with risk factors that might impact their wellbeing and result in harm, homelessness or other negative health outcomes.

During the meeting, Ms Woodward said, "We provide individual case management and support to young people. It can be as simple as identification. We can organise young people to get identification because without ID you have no hope of even applying for a job, you can't even get a tax file number.

"We support them to attend school and we do that through transport - we pick them up in a bus and give them a bit of a feed, a light snack. In the scorching hot conditions and with the risk of dehydration, the walk can be a barrier to school attendance.

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Mr Katter said, "Debra and her team are doing very important work in Mount Isa and they rely on government funding to be able to continue with the essential assistance they provide to the community. "

—ENDS—

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