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South Australian Association Of State School Organisations Inc.

Thursday December 18, 2014

The Hon Jennifer Rankine
Minister for Education and Child Development
GPO Box 1152
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister,

Re: Special Needs Transport

Thank you for your letter received December 16, 2014; in response to SAASSO's letter of September 16, on behalf of parents, asking that:

1. Two adults be present when transporting special needs children, for their protection.
1. That security cameras be required for all vehicles transporting special needs children, again, for their protection from abuse.

Your reply advises that security cameras and GPS will be installed for all vehicles from the start of 2015 - which is excellent news.

However, your letter ignores the first request, made by parents, that a second adult be present. **We would appreciate a response to this.**

You refer instead, to criminal history checks being required for all drivers. Minister, parents no longer have faith in the criminal history checks undertaken by your government - hence their two-person policy request.

This last week has seen another front page story of someone who 'slipped through the net' and then sexually assaulted seven children. Previous rapists of children have done so after passing your criminal history checks - you cannot ask or expect parents to trust this system that clearly doesn't protect their children.

I reiterate, the request for a second adult, is to ensure there is always a witness - it is for the protection of our most vulnerable children; those with special needs.

The case this year, where a Families SA driver raped a vulnerable child, would never have happened, if there had been another adult present.

Yours sincerely,

Gino Amato
President