

# 2008 Annual Conference

## 30 Years As One Voice

# Media Release



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### Pre - school transport helps kids get there

The NSW Farmers' Association will continue to urge the State Government to commit funds to allow pre - school children to travel for free on existing school bus routes.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Government has indicated it has no plans to review eligibility under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), which currently doesn't include pre school children.

"We will strongly urge the Government to reconsider, and allow pre school aged children to be eligible under the SSTS for free travel in regional and rural areas," Mr Laurie said.

"Research shows strong correlations between positive school results and children who have attended pre schooling education," he said.

"While pre-school transport across the State varies from town to town, some parents are paying up to \$100 a term extra for travel on the school bus," he said.

"Other Members are forced to drive, sometimes long distances and we are concerned the expense of travel may prove a prohibitive factor to people looking to send their children to pre-school.

"It is the Government's responsibility to encourage and enable people to take up the positive option of pre school education.

"By including pre - school aged children on the SSTS, the Government can ensure our next generation gets the best possible start to their school years," Mr Laurie concluded.

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