NO ROOM ON THE BUSES

It is the end of the second week of the school year and yet again we have students unable to find even standing room on overcrowded school buses.

For the second day running school children wanting to go to O'Loughlin College in Karama have been left at Palmerston interchange.

"Once again we have school children being left to their own devices because of the ineptitude of the Minister for Transport, Delia Lawrie," says Terry Mills, Opposition Leader.

"This morning a dozen O'Loughlin College kids were forced to catch a public bus because the school bus was full.

"Yesterday there were 25 kids late for school at O'Loughlin College because they were forced to catch the public bus.

"Parents believed that Minister Lawrie’s push for seat belts on school buses would at least see their kids have a seat.

"More parents are losing faith in the school bus system and driving their kids to work – which has the unwelcome side effect of increasing traffic congestion out of Palmerston in the morning.

"The overcrowding of the school buses to Marrara Christian College and O'Loughlin College is a consequence of the Territory Government’s failure to get the Palmerston Middle School up and running for the start of the school year.

"Parents weren’t willing to put their kids through the disruption of moving school during the school year, so they have opted for to send their children to non-government schools.

"Now these parents are being forced to drive their kids to school because the Territory Government can’t organise enough school buses for them.

"One point that needs to be stressed is that these failures in no way reflect upon the drivers who are forced to deny kids entry to their bus.

"The drivers are obeying the law – as they must.

"The Minister needs to start earing her crust and sort this problem out before Monday morning."

Further comment : Terry Mills 0418 833 594