

# John Castrilli MLA



## Representing the people of Bunbury

### Free travel for seniors

I would like to encourage seniors and disability support pensioners in Bunbury to make the most of an initiative in which seniors can travel free on the city's public transport network between 9am and 3.30pm.

Those eligible for the free travel from April 4 will have to show their WA Senior's Card or Centrelink aged or disability pension card when boarding any Bunbury City Transit bus.

I believe this initiative will be a helping hand for many seniors and disability support pensioners, many of whom are struggling to meet the rising cost of living which we've seen in recent years.

This offer will considerably benefit those who cannot drive and encourage more people to use our public transport so as demand spurs an expansion of our local network into the future.

For those wanting to utilise this offer on the Mandurah to Perth rail line or in Perth, you will need a SmartRider card.

Aged and disability support pensioners can apply for a SmartRider card by phoning the Transperth InfoLine on 13 62 13 for an application form.

### Protect our police

I am pleased to inform you that legislation will be discussed in State Parliament this week proposing mandatory sentencing for those who assault police officers.

I firmly support this legislative change and believe it is well overdue.

Last year, I spoke on the issue in Parliament from a local perspective and highlighted several miscarriages of justice. These were cases where there had been minimal or no recourse for those who assaulted our South West police officers.

In one such case in November, 2007, an officer was punched in the face and shoulder in Dunsborough and all the the offender received was a \$100 fine and a good behaviour bond.

In another case, an offender poked a lit cigarette into the eye of a Busselton police officer yet his only punishment after fronting court was a \$400 fine.

Furthermore, I am sure the devastating case of Constable Matt Butcher has caught your attention over the past few days. This miscarriage of justice has publicly and blatantly highlighted why change to the system is so crucial.

If our police officers are willing to put their lives on the line to safeguard our community, our justice system must be empowered to return the favour.

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