



***Family Digest 14***  
***15<sup>th</sup> June 2017***

**School Transport**

During May the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Basic Education met with the Departments of Basic Education and Transport to discuss issues relating to the provision of transport for school learners. The meeting was intended to be a joint portfolio committee meeting, but the Portfolio Committee on Transport was unable to attend. During the course of the meeting it was apparent that Department of Basic Education's figures differed widely from those of Equal Education and Stats SA estimates. Concerns were expressed that there is an urgent category of learners who have to walk long distances to and from school and that these children had not been adequately captured in the statistics. Concerns were also raised regarding the use of light delivery vehicles such as open "bakkies" to transport children to and from school. Ongoing disquiet was expressed about the safety compliance of vehicles transporting children to school. The links below demonstrate that there is good reason for such disquiet.

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<http://sacsis.org.za/site/article/547.1>

[www.aljazeera.com/.../south-africa-minibus-crash-kills-20-children-17042114421081](http://www.aljazeera.com/.../south-africa-minibus-crash-kills-20-children-17042114421081)

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/15-school-kids-hurt-in-durban-taxi-crash-20170323>

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/7-kids-die-as-packed-bakkie-crashes-1810542>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/jun/04/south-africa-roads-children-safety>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/more-than-100-school-children-hurt-in-2-bus-crashes-20160826>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Cape-Town-driver-guilty-of-kids-deaths-20111212>

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/06/05/Five-pupils-killed-in-school-bus-crash1>

<http://knysna.look4itmedia.co.za/knysna-school-bus-crash-bus-was-overloaded/>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/more-than-50-pupils-rescued-from-overturned-school-bus-near-stellenbosch-20170328>

However, the National Department of Transport has legislation and regulations in place to help ensure that children get to school safely, in suitable vehicles that are licenced, roadworthy and driven by drivers with professional driving permits. The challenge is in the implementation.

<http://www.tct.gov.za/docs/categories/1800/TCT%20Scholar%20Transport%20Information%20Guide%20.pdf>

<http://section27.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Chapter-16.pdf>