



Johnathan,
giving back
preserves the unity


BusFoundation
Caring for our own

Strengthening our



Community.

The bus industry in Victoria is a community of people sharing many common challenges and aspirations. For a long time there has been a need for a unified support organisation to protect our drivers, operators, associated employees and their families. Finally something is being done.

Even in our line of work, we can't be entirely sure what's around the next corner. The unexpected is never very far away. Accidents happen, health and legal costs can arise, jobs are threatened and, on a larger front, legislation is sometimes proposed which is not in our collective interest. These are some of the issues that the Victorian bus community has to be in a position to react to. However, it is just as important that we, as a group are proactive as well by supporting initiatives such as medical and/or academic research, scholarships and services associated with business and/or contract continuance.

With this in mind, it's paramount that there are contingencies in place to protect our livelihoods and the future security and wellbeing of our families.

In light of the many challenges (and opportunities) that continue to face us as a community, the Bus Association of Victoria (BusVic) has created The Bus Foundation. Its primary aim: to build a fund that is available to support operator members.

The Foundation's core purpose and reason for being is to assist BusVic members in times of need, such as health issues, counselling and support, and to combat wider community issues. Think of a wheel on a bus. It's not held in place by one lug nut, or even five – as is the case with a car – it usually takes 10. Why? Strength in numbers. And, because there is so much more at stake. After all, we take on an enormous responsibility every day just doing our job.

A close-up portrait of a woman with a joyful expression, smiling broadly. The image is heavily tinted with a vibrant blue color. The background is a complex, repeating pattern of a person's face, likely the same woman, creating a sense of depth and repetition. The text "Fighting the good fight" is overlaid in the upper center in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Fighting the good fight

The Foundation will also provide members with added peace of mind as it may be called on to assist with costs associated with respite care, counselling, medical treatment, recovery and recuperation.

All we need is stakeholder support to help it grow.

Fighting the good fight.

Another all-important part of our shared journey is the ability to defend our interests as an industry. The Foundation will, in time, become an invaluable source of support providing assistance in many areas – one of which will be lobbying for particular relevant causes and campaigning on behalf of our members.

We envisage that a well-supported fund will offer us the leverage we need as a community to move forward.

One of the most empowering aspects of the Foundation will be its ability to champion members' interests by providing the means for financial, legal, and media support, if needed.

How is it driven?

To kick-start the fund, an account will be opened in the name of Bus Foundation where all monies will be received on behalf of the Foundation. Income held in the Bus Foundation account will be invested in accordance with directions of the Board from time to time; and only a portion of the interest received on the principle of funds in the account will be available for expenditure. The Board will establish a Foundation sub-committee to hear requests for financial assistance.

Expenditure of the principle by the sub-committee is ONLY acceptable under exceptional circumstances.



The ability to apply for assistance will be a service offered to fully paid-up and voting members of BusVic and past members who met these parameters at any time during which they were members.

The income of the Bus Foundation will be derived from a number of potential sources, including the Board setting aside BusVic funds from time to time, levies, donations and bequests made by members or others. We urge associated businesses to take a holistic approach and get involved for the sake of the greater good.

In the spirit of complete transparency, it does also need to be stated that the Foundation is not a registered charity and therefore does not hold charitable tax benefits; however it is a way for the BusVic and its members to build a strong, self-managed and self-governing support resource.

So we're calling on all BusVic members and affiliated industry suppliers and manufacturers to assist with funding the Foundation and building its strength.

Give what you can and help keep our bus community healthy and proud.

Get involved for
the sake of the
greater good.



how to contribute

All cheques to be made payable to Bus Association Victoria Inc with an accompanying note indicating if the contributor wishes to be known or anonymous. Contributors can also choose to inform BusVic why they have decided to make a contribution.

how to request assistance

All requests for assistance should be in writing and made out to the Executive Director, Bus Association Victoria Inc. and outline the circumstances or reasons causing the member to seek assistance. The sub-committee will, when considering whether to provide such assistance, be free to take anything into consideration it deems relevant, subject only to the aims of the Foundation including:

- how long the operator has been or was a fully paid up and voting member of BusVic;
- the contribution the operator has made to BusVic and the bus industry in general;
- the intended purpose for the money and whether there are other more suitable and appropriate avenues to obtain financial assistance for the particular purpose;
- the quantum of the request, and the funds available for distribution in the Bus Foundation account at the time of the request; and
- anything else that relates to the aims and objective of the Foundation.

Any decision by the committee to provide financial assistance to a person or not will be at the absolute discretion of the committee. The committee will not provide any verbal or written reasons for its decision, but will formally respond to each request.

Operator members should read this document in conjunction with the Bus Foundation Rules which are available from the BusVic website.

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