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MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

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Bring back conductors after pensioner bus death

CPSA calls on the NSW Government to reinstate bus conductors following the death of Moya Rose Best, 75, who fell on a bus bound for Bronte on 3 February, 2005, and died three days later. Her death is the subject of a coronial inquiry.

“Bus drivers are under too much pressure to stick to their timetable and don’t wait for the older people, people with disabilities or women with young kids to reach their seats”, said June Gabriel, Transport Officer with CPSA today.

“A lot of drivers do the right thing, but some drivers will even drive away while still collecting fares.

“The State Transit Authority refuses to make public statistics it collects on passenger injuries.

“The State Transit Authority cynically makes passenger injury the subject of a cost-benefit analysis. It’s cheaper to pay compensation than it is to make buses safe for older people, people with disabilities and women with young kids.

“Bus conductors used to be in charge of the bus. They used to make sure drivers waited until it was safe for the bus to drive away. Their responsibilities were passenger safety and revenue collection.

“It’s not enough to cut drivers a bit of slack on their timetables.

“The best solution would be to bring back conductors, if only between 11 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon, when vulnerable passengers are most likely to travel.

“State Transit employs around 3,000 drivers, with an annual wages bill of \$25 million. Bringing back conductors on all buses would double the wages bill.

“But fare evasion on city trains and buses costs the tax payer an estimated \$60 million a year. The State Transit Authority employs just 20 ticket inspectors on their entire system.

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Donations: 1800 451 488 / www.cpsa.org.au - donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

“Bus conductors would put a stop to fare evasion on buses and would dramatically improve passenger safety.

“Moya Rose Best would very likely still be alive if her bus had had a conductor.”

ENDS

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