



ACTIVITY SIXTEEN:

Meet the crew and other good news

Transperth employs a range of people to provide a modern, efficient and reliable public transport network, and manages contracts with several companies that also provide various services. This activity allows students to develop a better understanding of the number of employees, the varied roles and the sorts of skills they have to sustain the system. Students also have the opportunity to profile how young people can interact positively with staff on a daily basis and in an emergency situation.

Student Outcomes

Society and Environment

Strand: Resources

- R 2.3 The student understands similarities and differences in the way people work.
- R 3.3 The student understands that individuals and groups value different forms of work.

Health and Physical Education

Strand: Concepts for a Healthy Lifestyle

- CHL 4 The student understands how factors influence personal behaviours and how to appraise their own and others health, safety and physical activity practices.

Purpose

This activity will provide an opportunity for the student to:

- Understand the roles staff have in Transperth and how these roles provide and support safe train and bus travel
- Write a promotional story that values the contributions Transperth staff and young people make in the community.

Preparation

Decide whether you want to focus on the train or bus service or both. Then photocopy the following resources as required:

- *Resource Twelve – Interview Transcripts: Train*
- *Resource Twelve – Good News: Family Feature*
- *Resource Thirteen – Interview Transcripts: Bus*
- *Resource Thirteen – Good News: Aaron's on the Right Track.*

Procedure

1. Divide the class into groups. Each group can have a different Interview Transcript.
2. Groups can read the Interview Transcripts for the Transperth staff and write a list of positive and negative experiences the employees have had.
3. Answer the following:
 - What job satisfaction do these people get?
 - What do you think the best part of the job would be?
 - What do you think would be the worst part of the job?
 - Do you think Transperth staff are helpful?
 - What has your experience been?
 - How could children and young people enhance the Transperth staff's opinion of young people?
4. The teacher can read *Resource Twelve – Good News: Family Feature* to the whole class and debate whether rail safety is a youth issue or a whole community issue.
5. The teacher can read *Resource Thirteen – Good News: Aaron's on the Right Track to the whole class and discuss the scenario.*
6. Answer the following:
 - How would you react if you had witnessed this event?
 - What skills do you have to help an injured or ill person?
 - How does the quick thinking of Aaron and his friends enhance the public opinion of youth?
 - Discuss the media's role in the portrayal of youth?
 - Do you think the media has a balanced approach to reporting youth stories?
7. It is important to celebrate the positive stories students have witnessed or experienced. Research some positive news stories and write an article and send it to Transperth or your local newspaper and put the article in the school newsletter.



Variation

- Write a report about a positive experience students have had on a train or bus. Write how the students were helped.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local community newspaper celebrating the positive action taken by young people.
- Research the media over a one week period and make a note of all the articles or reports that focus on children and young people. Discuss whether the articles or reports have a positive youth focus.
- Undertake a first aid course.

From the Kids

“Why do we always hear about the bad things kids do? I know so many kids who do great things and they never reach the papers! It was good to read about Aaron.” – John (13)

Fact File

We're record holders!

In addition to being the largest state in Australia and having the largest privately owned railway in the world, Western Australia has the record for the longest railway train in the world. At one time, 648 carriages were pulled, beating the previous record by over 100 carriages. Can students work out how long it would take for that train to stop?

For more information on the history of the railway system in Western Australia visit: www.righttrack.wa.gov.au



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT ONE

Elvis – Train Driver

What is your role in Transperth? I am a train driver.

What are your responsibilities? My responsibilities are to deliver safe passage of travel for customers. I am also responsible for ensuring trains run on time as well as looking after any security matters that may arise.

Why did you become a train driver? I became a train driver because I have always been fascinated by trains. I used to live in Perth as a child and watch the old steam trains when I walked over the footbridge close to my house. I loved the smell of the coals coming from the fire.

What is your favourite part of the job? Giving information to passengers about what platform they need to be on and waving to the children on the platform and also on bridges as I drive past. Sometimes, if I have time, I will show the children and their parents inside my driver's cab. When this happens the parents get just as excited as the kids.

What is your least favourite part of the job? Working weekends because I miss being with my family.

What is the best experience you have ever had on the job? When I drove a train all on my own for the first time. For me, it was like a dream come true, it was truly a great feeling. I'd say it was even better than winning the Lotto.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Enjoy what you are doing. If you enjoy your job your workmates are happy, the company is happy, your family is happy and of course, you are also happy.

What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a train driver? I'd say never be complacent and you must always be alert. Anything is possible if you are determined and try hard.



What did you do before you became a train driver? I worked for Telstra as a technician.

Where are you from? Perth, I was born at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Favourite food? Italian, I love lasagne!

Favourite colour? Sky blue.

Favourite music? 70's music and disco.

Hobbies? Coaching AFL and basketball.

Ambitions or dreams? I'd like to climb the ladder at Transperth at a rate that I feel comfortable and confident with.



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT TWO

Riwai – Transit Officer Supervisor

What is your role in Transperth? I am a Transit Officer Supervisor.

What are your responsibilities? My role is to supervise the troops, in that I mean to support them. When I am on duty, my major responsibility is to be the main point of contact for the Transit Officers. If they are in a dangerous situation, it is my job to help them out and to coordinate the other teams, so I can also send other officers to assist. I am also responsible for helping the Transit Officers uphold the law and ensure that all arrests are lawful and correct.

Why did you become a Transit Officer Supervisor? I had been in the police force for 18 years and wanted to do something that was similar but different. Transit Officers have similar powers to police on public transport and at stations, but there is the extra element of customer service which I really enjoy.

What is your favourite part of the job? I love interacting with people, whether it is educating young people about how to use the trains or making elderly people feel safe when they travel. I love riding trains on Sundays when there are a lot of families and senior citizens on the train. There is a real community atmosphere. I also really like talking to young people. They are usually so full of optimism and I always tell them that their lives are full of opportunities and they can achieve anything they want to achieve.

What is your least favourite part of the job? I hate giving people infringements, but if people don't pay for the train we wouldn't have such a clean and reliable service. I also hate having to attend fatalities where people have been killed by not following the safety rules. The other aspect I don't like is when kids run from you or get their backs up when we have seen them doing something wrong. Sometimes all we intend to do is explain to them why what they're doing is unsafe, and give them a caution or a warning. By running away, giving false details or reacting badly they unnecessarily make the matter worse and we have no choice but to arrest or fine them.

What is the best experience you have ever had on the job? I don't really have one stand out experience. I just really enjoy my job.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? You need to have good communication skills and a genuine interest in helping and protecting people. You also need to be able to support and work collaboratively with your team mates. Another important quality is that you need to be able work under pressure and be able to read people and situations, so you can make a good judgment call that will either solve the difficult situation or prevent it from getting worse.



What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a Transit Officer Supervisor? You need to get a good education, have good verbal, written and mathematical skills. You also need to be able to communicate with a wide range of people from different ages, cultures and backgrounds. Most importantly, you need to be able to look at a situation and quickly be able to judge the best way to approach it. You also really need to like working with people and helping people.

What did you do before you became a Transit Officer Supervisor? I was a policeman in New Zealand for 18 years.

Where are you from? Gisborne, a beautiful but small town in New Zealand.

Favourite food? Seafood.

Favourite colour? I love red! All my cars are red. I also have a Fender guitar which one of the other Transit Officers painted red because he knew how crazy I was about the colour.

Favourite music? I enjoy listening to The Shadows, Green Day and guitar instrumentals from Tommy Emmanuel and Hank Marvin.

Hobbies? I love playing golf and playing guitar.

Ambitions or dreams? I would love to be a professional golfer or a famous guitarist like Tommy Emmanuel.



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT THREE

Kate – Train Driver

What is your role in Transperth? I am a trainer for new train drivers. You could call me a trainer for trainee train drivers if you like, but that's quite a mouthful isn't it!

What are your responsibilities? I am responsible for many of the trainee drivers and I teach them all aspects of the job at the present time.

Why did you become a train driver? I had previous experience in the Perth Metro system as I was a technical assistant for five years. I became a train driver to give me greater job security.

What is your favourite part of the job? I really enjoy being responsible for my own workplace. When you are a train driver you feel that you have a very responsible job, but you also gain a sense of freedom because you are in your own little mobile office.

What is your least favourite part of the job? Sometimes the shift work can be a little anti-social - the first shift of each weekday begins at 3.45am. Working weekends and nights on an irregular basis makes it hard to join a club or complete a course that requires you to be at a certain place every week.

What is the best experience you have ever had on the job? Every day I get a buzz out of my job, whether it is seeing the sun rise over the hills when I am driving on the Armadale line or seeing it set over the ocean when I'm on the Fremantle line. There are many small joys to this job. I especially love waving back to all the people waving at my train as I drive past.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? I think you need an optimistic personality. You need to be able to stay attentive and not easily diverted. You also need to be confident and have the ability to work by yourself. You certainly need a positive and flexible mentality.

What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a train driver? Customer service is one of the main aspects of the job and I would say that new drivers need to be able to deal with people effectively. You also need to be good at problem solving, be level headed and responsible.



What did you do before you became a train driver? I had a number of jobs including a travel agent, personal trainer, flag maker and nanny.

Where are you from? I grew up in Perth.

Favourite food? Thai.

Favourite music? I like anything that is playing on Triple J.

Hobbies? I love roller blading, cycling, painting and drawing – I like drawing cartoons.

Ambitions or dreams? My ambition is to travel to Africa and also visit Peru, the Greek Islands and the pyramids in Egypt.



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT FOUR

Damian – Central Monitoring Room Operator

What is your role at Transperth? I'm a Central Monitoring Room (CMR) Operator.

What are your responsibilities? My job involves monitoring CCTV cameras for such things as tagging, anti-social behaviour, violent offences, rail safety and things of that nature. We also answer emergency telephones and take any necessary action. We also assist the Ticket Vending Machine controllers with ticketing queries and assist Transit Officers in their daily duties via the CCTV equipment.

Why did you become a CMR operator? I wanted to make a difference on the railways. I enjoy working with the Shift Commanders, Customer Service Assistants, Passenger Ticketing Assistants and Transit Officers to make the system safe and enjoyable for the general public.

What is your favourite part of the job? The satisfaction of preventing an offence. With experience you just know something isn't right and being able to help diffuse potential situations in this way brings a smile to my face.

What is your least favourite part of the job? Definitely the shift work. People who know me know I like having a good time and shift work plays havoc with my social life.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? Probably too many to mention, but I guess it's when you catch a bad guy out and his arrest leads to more significant findings such as drug finds, stolen property or bench warrants. Also assisting our special needs patrons or finding lost children. They're all great experiences to me.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Vigilance, patience, great knowledge of the railways and good observation skills would be the main things. You also need a sense of humour as the guys in the CMR are a little bit loopy!



What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a CMR operator? Go for it. It's a highly satisfying job and you really make a difference and best of all you get to work with me – the CMR superstar!

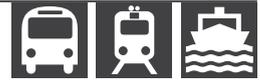
What did you do before becoming a CMR operator? I worked as a Transit Officer and Customer Liaison Officer for the PTA and before that I spent time at university and travelling the world.

Where are you from? Originally from Busselton and then moved to Perth when I was six.

Favourite food? Any chicken dish.

Favourite colour? Black and blue.

Favourite music? I've been listening to hip hop since Big Daddy Kane, Run DMC and LL Cool J in the 80's!



Family feature

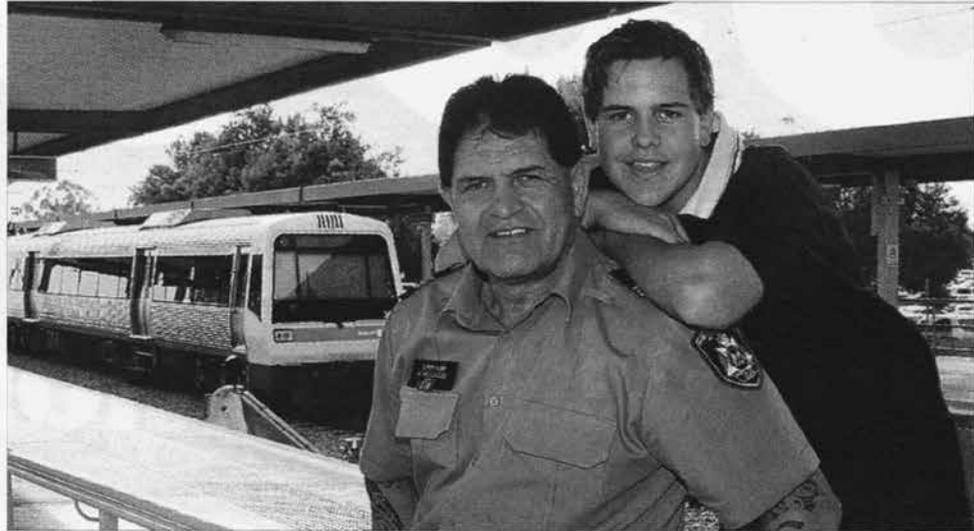
A TRANSIT officer supervisor and his son, a student of Governor Stirling Senior High School, feature in a new rail safety DVD on the Midland train line.

Cruz Williams was selected by the Public Transport Authority to appear in its DVD after auditions, in which school students were asked to talk about themselves and outline any experiences on the rail system.

The family link was discovered only after Cruz was selected.

"It was awesome to spend the day with my dad (Riwai Williams) at his work and to meet a filming crew," he said.

The DVD is part of an education package titled *Right*



Riwai Williams and his son Cruz at the Midland train station. Picture: Felicity Babich d258554

Track, being distributed to schools and youth groups.

"The only way for young people to feel safe when using the system is to know about the dangers of acting irresponsibly on trains and at sta-

tions," Mr Williams said.

"Kids just don't realise they're putting their safety at risk."

The Right Track program was extended to Midland and Mandurah lines after it was

launched along the Armadale line last year.

Students from the Cyril Jackson Senior Campus and Bayswater Primary School also appear in the Midland DVD.

Courtesy: Midland Reporter, Tuesday, May 8, 2007



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT ONE

Ken – Bus Driver and Trainer

Path Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? I am a bus driver and also a bus driver trainer.

What are your responsibilities? I drive buses when I am not training new bus drivers. Every new bus driver has to go through a three week full-time (120 hours) bus driver training course and must pass a bus driving test at the end of their training. We assign one trainer to three trainee drivers.

Why did you become a bus driver and trainer? I wanted a change from what I was doing. I started driving buses and went on to the role of trainer later.

What is your favourite part of the job? As a trainer, I have a high level of job satisfaction when someone passes their bus driving test and I know that I have helped someone reach their goal. As a bus driver, I enjoy driving very much, as well as the interaction with different people every day.

What is your least favourite part of the job? As a trainer, I hate failing people and causing them to miss out on the chance to be a bus driver. We don’t have that many people who fail. I would say that nine out of ten people who take the test usually pass.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? I have always wanted to drive big vehicles and this itself is a great experience. One day an elderly lady got on the bus and seemed distressed. She wasn’t sure which bus she had to take and was lost. I decided to take her down to Rockingham, which was where she wanted to go. A few weeks later, I received a thank you letter from her which was very thoughtful. Recognition of doing a job well is a very rewarding experience.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? As a bus driver and trainer, I take pride in what I do and I think that it’s the most important thing. For both roles, you need to have good communication skills, especially as a trainer - being able to verbally pass skills and knowledge on to trainee drivers. As a bus driver, those skills help me deal with different situations that may arise. Patience, tolerance and acknowledging that all people are different are important qualities too. Being open-minded in this job also helps. For example, there is a general assumption that teenagers are the main culprits of anti-social behaviour. I don’t agree, as my experiences as a bus driver shows me that people who cause trouble come from all age groups and backgrounds.



What advice would you give students thinking of becoming a bus driver and trainer? Obey the law and don’t lose your licence! Sometimes little, silly things that people do can cost them their future.

What did you do before becoming a bus driver and trainer? I started off as a store worker at a supermarket when I was 17 and went on to become the manager at the age of 18.

Where are you from? I was born in the UK, grew up in Sydney and moved to Perth when I was 17.

Favourite food? I love steak.

Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite music? I like all country and western.

Hobbies? I love doing woodwork during my free time, but spending time with my family is my top priority.

Ambitions or dreams? I am perfectly happy with this job and I hope to stay working for as long as I can. I guess maintaining good health would be my ambition in order to do that!



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT TWO

Glen – Bus Body Builder

Path Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? I am involved with the maintenance of buses.

What are your responsibilities? I fix and maintain buses that are damaged, either due to normal wear and tear, accidents or acts of vandalism.

Why did you become a bus body builder? I have a background in panel beating cars and thought that this was a chance for a bit of a change, and also because I love working on automotives.

What is your favourite part of the job? The best part of this job is that I get to do what I love – work with automotives.

What is your least favourite part of the job? Fixing or replacing windows due to some irresponsible and troublesome people in the community. Each window takes about four hours to replace, which I could better use to make sure that all buses are in good shape. They normally happen when people throw rocks directly at the windows while the bus is moving. The cost of replacing each window is around \$500-\$600 and there is an average of three window replacements a week. Even when the rocks don’t hit the window, it causes dents in the bus body. Panel beating buses is quite different from cars and requires a lot more work. Also treating rust on buses is one of my least favourite jobs.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? There is never a boring day at work for me as most of the work involved is ever-changing. I like being able to work out solutions for a variety of problems with the buses. Sometimes replacement parts are unavailable or there are urgent situations. It is very satisfying and keeps my day interesting.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Experience is probably the most important. A willingness to learn and be open-minded to new technology, as more new buses replace the older ones. Patience and being focused on the job are also important.



What advice would you give students thinking of becoming a bus body builder? Be prepared to learn and gain experience for at least four years before getting into a job like this. This is quite a specialised job and there are very few ‘masters’ of the trade. Also be prepared to get dirty, as this is a job where you will get dirty!

What did you do before becoming a body builder? I was a car panel beater.

Where are you from? Perth.

Favourite food? I love steak.

What is your favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite music? I like AC/DC.

Hobbies? I love my Aussie Rules footy.



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT THREE

Jackie – Bus Driver and Trainer

Southern Coast Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? I’m a bus driver and a trainer for new drivers. We work in buddy teams - it has a lot of rewards.

What are your responsibilities? Driving buses, customer service, ticketing and trying to help passengers as much as I possibly can – it’s more than just getting them from A to B.

Why did you become a bus driver and trainer? I was looking for a challenge. I love driving and I wanted to do something in customer service.

What is your favourite part of the job? I love driving and the fact that you’re out on the road by yourself – it’s almost like you’re self-employed! You have your own mobile office.

What is your least favourite part of the job? That I get tired! I work very long hours. I want to learn so much about this job but there’s not enough time. I wish I could do more.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? I think it’s all the acknowledgment I’ve received for doing a good job, well done. That has come from management, customers and fellow workers. I’ve never achieved so much or been so successful in a job before.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Definitely personality – you have to be friendly to everyone and treat every passenger the same – whether they’re wearing ripped jeans or a suit and tie. All your passengers are equal and deserve the same level of respect.

What advice would you give students thinking of becoming a bus driver and trainer? If you like driving, customer service, aren’t afraid of traffic and are willing to be challenged, this is the job for you. It really is a career that you grow with.

What did you do before becoming a bus driver and trainer? I was a full-time mum for a while. Before that I worked in the fashion industry managing three stores.



Where are you from? When I was 18, I moved from France to Australia with my family, that’s 27 years ago now. We lived in Brisbane for six years before we all moved to Perth. I now have two children.

Favourite food? I think a great pasta or a really nice fancy salad. I used to be a great cook and I love people cooking for me. My favourite desert is lemon meringue pie. I always leave room for dessert!

Favourite colour? Blue – it’s such a bright and happy colour. I love wearing pink clothes though.

Favourite music? Classical. I love instrumental music! I also like Johnny Mathis – all the older stuff.

Hobbies? Riding motorbikes! I love being outdoors, no fuss activities. I would much prefer to be walking along a beach than going to a nightclub.

Ambitions or dreams? To be happy and to find a great love. I’ve found a new life with this job and there are so many doors opening. I just want to keep going!



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT FOUR

George – Bus Driver and Bus Wash Supervisor

Path Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? I am the bus wash supervisor and a driver.

What are your responsibilities? I work with about six blokes and we all wash the buses for a couple of hours each day, then go out and drive them.

Why did you become a bus wash supervisor? I was asked to! I used to do relief duties at Metrobus and they asked me to transfer to this position.

What is your favourite part of the job? I love being in the wash for the exercise and the mental break from driving – it takes a lot of concentration to drive a bus.

What is your least favourite part of the job? It’s the frustration at cleaning up after people who treat buses like they’re a rubbish tip.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? Once there was a young girl who came off her motorbike in front of my bus whilst driving up at Clarkson. So I stopped my bus behind the accident, called an ambulance and organised all the people on my bus to get another bus home. I made sure she was okay until the ambulance arrived. After she was released from hospital she sent a message back through my boss thanking me for taking such good care of her.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Definitely good communication skills, interpersonal skills and good singing skills too – for singing in the bus wash.

What advice would you give students thinking of becoming a bus wash supervisor or driver? Be happy. It’s a thankless job, with some merits. Plus learn to sing!



What did you do before becoming a bus wash supervisor and driver? I was a driving instructor and before that a hardware manager.

Where are you from? Glasgow, in Scotland. I moved to Australia when I was 12.

Favourite food? I love Chinese, but my new favourite food that I only tried for the first time three weeks ago, is Indian, especially chicken korma and naan bread.

Favourite colour? Dark blue.

Favourite music? I like Phil Collins, the Bee Gees and George Michael.

Hobbies? I love motorbike riding. I got my bike three years ago now. I also love swimming, camping, bushwalking and bike riding.

Ambitions or dreams? To travel. I haven’t done a lot of it as I’ve been raising my family. I want to go to Canada, New Zealand, Tasmania and the Greek Islands – I just want to go everywhere!



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT FIVE

Bill – Bus Driver and Refueler

Path Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? Anything that requires doing between 6am-6pm.

What are your responsibilities? Fueling the buses, repairing heating systems, attending to break downs and driving the buses.

Why did you become a bus driver? Not sure, waiting for something better since 1979.

What is your favourite part of the job? The variety.

What is your least favourite part of the job? Dealing with rock throwers and confronting them.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? Too many, the good far outweigh the bad.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Learning how to get along and interact with good people, and how to not get involved in their dramas.

What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a bus driver? Let incidents wash over you. Treat everyone equally but each individual situation differently.

What did you do before becoming a bus driver? I was a tool setter and a manufacturer in the UK and then involved in quality control at a car assembly plant in New Zealand.

Where are you from? Staffordshire, England.

Favourite food? Thai.

Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite music? Rock and roll.

Hobbies? Rugby, running.

Ambitions or dreams? Travel around India.





INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT SIX

Amanda – Bus Driver

Swan Transit is one of Transperth’s bus contractors, what is your role with them? I am a bus driver.

What are your responsibilities? Driving buses, which involves pre-start checks plus keeping track of and reporting maintenance issues. Maintenance issues include things like tyres, break lights, indicators, mirrors, wipers, water levels, reporting new graffiti and ensuring all seats are in good condition. Reporting of issues includes any damage to bus panels or lights, blown globes, wear on wiper blades and identifying potential dangers to other motorists.

Why did you become a bus driver? I really like driving. I get enjoyment from being on the road and seeing what’s happening out there. It’s also well paid and a relaxed work environment.

What is your favourite part of the job? I enjoy driving and interacting with people, especially our regular patrons. I love to hear sporting tales after the footy, stories from older people and school kids, and listening to kids with special needs describe their day.

What is your least favourite part of the job? I don’t like dealing with discourteous people, both on the bus or in cars on the road, especially drivers who don’t give way. A few customers don’t acknowledge you when they board and just throw money at you. That gets me down but it isn’t very common. Also passengers not following the ‘10 Simple Rules’, for example not standing for elderly patrons.

What is the best experience you have had on the job? I can’t think of one specific moment. I have had heaps of positive experiences, but being praised by customers for driving well makes me feel good.

What do you believe are the most important qualities to be successful and enjoy your role? Good communication skills and patience. You also have to be considerate of all passengers needs, for example, elderly passengers, mothers with prams or people with special needs.



What advice would you give students who are thinking of becoming a bus driver? You need to be patient and aware of your surroundings, for example, noticing when traffic is coming to a stop and preparing to brake early.

What did you do before becoming a bus driver? I worked in childcare, then as a cleaner up at the mines – both jobs were very different from driving buses.

Where are you from? I was born in Perth.

Favourite food? Chicken, avocado and cheese sandwiches.

Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite music? I enjoy listening to Shannon Noll and other Australian rock.

Hobbies? I play softball, enjoy swimming and relax watching TV.

Ambitions or dreams? I always wanted to be a prison officer.



Aaron's on the Right Track

Good deeds don't often go unnoticed. This was definitely the case for 16 year old Aaron and two of his friends. Their quick thinking and life-saving skills helped save an elderly man in distress on a local bus.

What seemed like a usual afternoon on their way home from school quickly changed when the crowded bus the boys were travelling on came to an abrupt stop, narrowly avoiding an accident.

"After all that happened, we saw that an elderly man, who was getting ready to exit the bus before the accident, was on the floor of the bus," Aaron said.

"He looked like he was injured pretty badly. My first reaction was to help him. I have been trained in first aid and I thought I should help him. That is why I have been trained – to help people."

Without delay, Aaron and his friends went to help the man by putting him in a more comfortable position. The bus driver helped clear everyone else off the bus and called an ambulance.

"I asked the bus driver for some bandages, but there weren't any. I know the area well, so I decided to run to the police station nearby to get some first aid supplies," Aaron said.

"Meanwhile, Maddison took his shirt off to use it as a bandage to stop the bleeding and Shaylan stayed by the elderly man to calm him down."

When Aaron arrived at the police station, it was unattended. Knowing the man really needed help, Aaron ran further to the nearby bus station where he got some bandages.

When he got back to the elderly man, Aaron checked the man's pulse and noticed signs that the man was going into shock.

"I dressed up his injuries as much as I could, while one of my friends kept on reassuring him that help was on the way," said Aaron.

"My other friend waited by the bus to help direct the ambulance when it got there.



"We stayed on to help the ambulance officers after they arrived until the elderly man was taken to the hospital."

The bus company involved, felt that what the boys did was exemplary and that they deserved to be rewarded for their good deed.

"The manager of the bus company came to our school and presented each of us with a \$100 gift certificate at the assembly," Aaron said.

"It was great and I felt really motivated to keep on helping others because if I can save one person, I know that I can save others."

Aaron, an aspiring Paramedic, has recently completed his Bronze Medallion course to add on to his life saving skills. He recommends that everyone should do a first aid training course.

"You never know when you'll need it. Even if you're not trained, you can still help those who are – every little bit helps when it comes to saving lives," he said.