

REFERENCE: The Portside Messenger Wednesday 28 January 2004 Page 3

Harbour Bus Service

THE Outer Harbor Passenger Terminal has a new shuttle bus service following complaints from cruise ship passengers about the walk to the local train station.

But many passengers last week were unaware of the service, and continued to walk through soft sand and dodge traffic to get to the train station.

The Portside Messenger visited the terminal and train station, on Oliver Rogers Rd, last Thursday (January 22), when passengers were disembarking from the Hong Kong-based cruise ship Superstar Leo.

None of the passengers spoken to were aware of the shuttle bus service, which now operates outside the passenger terminal.

West Australians Sim and Alison Kuiper were impressed with the terminal but thought a path was needed.

``If there was a path from the terminal it would be fantastic," Mr Kuiper said.

Mrs Kuiper: ``It's like blocking the obvious. You have to cart your bags and they get stuck in the dirt.

``But the people were very welcoming."

Fellow WA residents Bill and Margaret Collins agreed.

``You have to walk on the road and there's a lot of traffic, so it can be quite dangerous," Mrs Collins said.

Jacqui Willis found the going difficult in her electric wheelchair.

``I tried to get through a crossover and there's a pole in the middle of it," Ms Willis said.

Rosalind Lane, from Greenmount, WA, wanted to see a walking path ``so we don't have to dodge cars".

SA Tourism Commission chief executive Bill Spurr said the commission had started running a shuttle bus from the dockside to the train station after complaints when the Star Princess docked at Outer Harbor on Christmas Eve, 2003. The bus costs \$1000 a day to run.

`` Because there was some criticism from passengers that time we decided to put the shuttle bus on ourselves for the next visit," Mr Spurr said.

`` Going from the terminal to the station is very short but going around the fence line is frustrating.

`` We're talking with transport about that, to see if we can find an alternative."

Flinders Ports marine operations general manager Carl Kavina said they would prefer passengers to use shuttle buses to get to the train station.

However, he said Flinders Ports would discuss providing a path to the station with Transport SA.