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## Toddler Discovered Alive in Suitcase on New Zealand Bus as Woman Faces Child Neglect Charges

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August 4, 2025

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A two-year-old girl was discovered alive inside a suitcase placed in the luggage compartment of a long-distance bus in New Zealand, prompting the arrest of a 27-year-old woman on suspicion of child neglect. The shocking discovery occurred during a scheduled stop in the town of Kaiwaka, approximately 60 miles north of Auckland, on Sunday.

The bus driver was alerted to the suitcase after a passenger requested access to the storage area. Upon investigating, the driver noticed movement and opened the bag, finding the child inside. According to Detective Chief Inspector Simon Harrison, the girl was “very hot, but otherwise appeared physically unharmed.” She was immediately taken to the hospital, where she remains under medical observation for a full assessment.

Authorities have not disclosed how long the child had been inside the suitcase or the full route of the bus journey. However, they confirmed that children’s services have been notified and are involved in the case. The unnamed 27-year-old woman was arrested at the scene and charged with ill-treatment or neglect of a child. DCI Harrison noted that further charges have not been ruled out as the investigation continues. The woman is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

The incident occurred on a coach operated by Entrada Travel Group under the InterCity brand, New Zealand’s national bus service. In a statement to NBC, a partner of Sky News, the company confirmed the incident and said, “Police were called to respond and are investigating the matter. No one was harmed during the incident, and the service resumed.”

According to InterCity’s policies, children up to the age of two may travel for free on an adult’s lap, while those aged three and over must have a child fare ticket and be accompanied by a guardian. This policy underscores the apparent violation of both transport and child safety protocols in this case.

DCI Harrison commended the attentiveness of the bus driver, stating, “The driver noticed something wasn’t right and took immediate action, preventing what could have been a far worse outcome.” His remarks highlight the crucial role played by frontline staff in

safeguarding public welfare.

As authorities continue their inquiries, the case has raised serious concerns about child welfare and transport safety oversight in New Zealand. The girl's recovery remains a priority as officials seek to establish the full circumstances leading up to the disturbing incident.