

Welcome to the first edition of the North East Transport Connections Project Newsletter

You will be receiving a copy of this Newsletter as a result of your involvement in phase one of the NTCP that operated between July 2007 and June 2010. Since this time project partners have been busy working behind the scenes, securing project funding from the Department of Planning and Community Development until June 2013 and employing a new project team to guide and implement project initiatives.

The purpose of the newsletter is to ensure that we keep you informed of project development over the next two years. We plan to provide you with examples of transport connections activities that are taking place throughout the state and information on opportunities for funding ideas in your local area.

Your valued involvement in the project is appreciated. Please feel free to pass on any of this information to your community networks.

Project Staff

NTCP welcomes Helen Vey as Project Manager and Karen Smith as Project Administration Officer. Together Helen and Karen bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the project and are looking forward to the task of bringing some innovative solutions to one of our regions greatest challenges, transport.



Project Direction

The Project Action Plan is the driving document for this project and includes a number of key activities including;

- Transport Information and Access Systems,
- Community Transport,
- Transport Hubs and importantly
- Working with local communities on issues that are unique to them.

For a copy of the Project Action Plan please contact Karen at the NTCP office. (02) 6049 2150
Email – ntcpinfo@tpg.com.au

The project is also designed to support current community ideas and activities in the areas of transport, innovation, access to information passive and active transport, technology that supports access and community transport.

NTCP focus on both project wide initiatives and those which are unique to individual communities. In the context of Transport Connections transport is not simply the movement of people but rather transport is defined as the enabler for communities which are transport disadvantaged to access services which address social and economic exclusion. In summary it is more about access than transport

NTCP Local Area Grants

To assist local communities to address their transport needs and promote the active transport as an alternative NTCP is developing a small grants program. Where monies between \$100 and \$5,000 will be available across the project area. Guidelines are currently being developed so watch this space for more details to come.

Virtual Visiting

Western District Health Service Victoria have developed an excellent Resource Kit as part of the Virtual Visiting Project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The Kit is designed to help health care providers develop virtual visiting in aged care and would be a great resource for Transport Connections projects to promote to aged care providers in their regions. Virtual Visiting – Keeping Connected: A Resource Kit for Residential Aged
<http://www.wdhs.net/agedcare/virtualvisiting.htm>

Inner Melbourne Hospital Map

Inner Melbourne Hospital Map and guide is a pilot project funded through the Transport Connections Program which has been reprinted. Please contact Department of Transport for copies or download from :
www.transport.vic.gov.au

Medical Companion Project

Travellers Aid Australia has launched a new pilot service to help regional Victoria travelers get to their medical appointments in Melbourne safely and confidently. The Medical Companion Project is an initiative in partnership with the Victorian Government's Transport Connections Program.

Trained volunteers are available to meet medical travelers at their train, taxi or bus platform at Flinders Street Station or Southern Cross Station. Volunteers will accompany patients by public transport to and from their appointment in central Melbourne . For more information contact Travellers Aid.

Grant Opportunities

[RACV Community Foundation Grants](#) (Up to \$10 000, close 1 July 2011)

Sustainability Victoria's Climate Communities Grants Program (up to \$50 000)

<http://www.climatecommunities.vic.gov.au/grants/about-grants-program>

Strengthening Multicultural Communities Grants

<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/grants/categories/strengthening-multicultural-communities-grants>

TCP Innovations Fund

Transport Connections also have access to a transport innovations fund that is being developed by the Department of Planning and Community Development.

Innovation Fund Guidelines

These are being developed and will be available when the Fund opens in July. The guidelines will address all the questions raised through the survey. As a preliminary indication, the focus for funding will be on the following service models: active transport; community information and education; community transport; outreach models; private transport and virtual access. Public transport will not be funded. Regional Cluster Groups will also be funded through the Innovation Fund.



Melbourne Medical Companion Project

Improving Access For All

TRAVELLERSaid 1300 700 399

Volunteer companions are now available to accompany you from the Flinders Street Station and the Southern Cross Train & Bus Terminals to your health care appointments in central Melbourne. Bookings are essential.

State Government Victoria

Active Transport

Fantastic resource to encourage walking – aimed at local government, but packed full of ideas.

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au>

Interesting study around encouraging bicycle use and the factors that influence people to cycle.

http://www.enablingchange.com.au/What_enables_cycling.pdf

A fascinating study brought to our attention by Bicycle Victoria, *Understanding the Relationship between Drivers and Cyclists*, can be downloaded from here:

