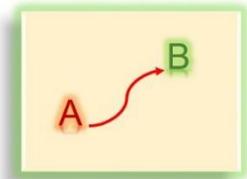


The Transport and Care Project

South Australian carers have told us for a very long time that transport is a major issue for their families, and especially so in regional and remote areas. The lack of transport options make it difficult to get to appointments, social events, work and leisure. In the past, solutions based on established thinking and processes have not had the desired level of impact to significantly improve this issue.



The question arose how 'sharing economy thinking' could improve the wellbeing of carers and their families and the wider community. Discussions with the Don Dunstan Foundation resulted in an interesting opportunity to investigate.

In September 2017, a Roundtable event, which focussed conversations on opportunities for the care and transport sectors to make a difference, was organised by the Don Dunstan Foundation in partnership with Carers SA as part of the Thinkers in Residence Program's Social Capital Residencies. Information regarding the Foundation's Social Capital Residencies can be found [here](#)¹.

[Allyson Hewitt](#), who is the Principal Thinker in Residence, shared with the participants her considerable expertise as the leader of the social innovation programs at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, Canada.

A group of interested Roundtable participants from across organisations and sectors have come together since that event to investigate interest and potential options to pursue a collaborative pilot to address some of the persistent issue around transport and care – especially in regional and country areas.

The core outcome of a potential pilot is to improved access to transport options.

How we work

- Carers SA has made a commitment to chair and coordinate the activities of the project.
- Don Dunstan Foundation provides curative project support.
- Participating organisations (members) are encouraged to share their expertise and where possible take/share lead roles on up-coming activities and tasks that are necessary for the success of the project.
- Membership to the project group has been agreed to as being voluntary and fluid in order to ensure the best possible project outcomes.
- The group meets when appropriate to plan and progress the project.
- All members receive regular and timely communication and shared information regarding the project and its progress.

¹ See webpage: <https://www.dunstan.org.au/projects/socialcapital/>

Research - SA Transport Survey

Carers SA has designed a transport user and sector survey to obtain data to confirm and elicit further details regarding transport needs and assess resource capacity within the selected region and community. The survey was published in August 2018 to October 2018 as an online survey. Hard copy option available with e-transfer support by participating organisations and community groups.

- Any data received from survey participants living outside the pilot region supported comparisons of transport needs data across different regions and identify potential future pilot sites.
- The results of this survey was published in December 2018. A copy of the [summary report](#) is available via the Carers SA website.

Bridge to Cars

Progressing a Vehicle Sharing Pilot

Group representatives took an opportunity via the Don Dunstan Foundation attend a meeting with the Thinker in Residence [Guy Turnbull](#)² in September 2018 to discuss his UK social enterprise experience and special interest in 'RED' (Rapid Enterprise Development).



After discussions and analysing wider sector experience, resources and locational data, the group selected the Murray Mallee area.

Although several other metropolitan, regional and country areas were considered, this region attracted the most local and cross sector support as a potential site for an innovative transport pilot.

The Bridge to Cars pilot operates between 6th May and 30th June 2019 and was designed to:

- Involve sharing of (fleet) vehicles with Not for Profit organisations via a joint pool via an online booking and access system
- Aim to make currently latent transport options available across weekdays as well as weekends
- Will be self-funded and operate during the pilot period on the support and goodwill across participating organisations.

Several organisations have made commitments to support the pilot:



² See: <https://www.dunstan.org.au/projects/turnbull/> and 'RED' <http://www.redstrategygroup.com/>

These organisations provide support across either one or more option during this pilot by:

- providing suitable fleet vehicles during the pilot period,
- providing pro bono support when specific professional expertise is required,
- providing expertise and discussion input to support progress and the activities of the pilot,
- providing administrative, networking and promotional support for the project and its activities.

During the pilot, we encourage Not for Profit (incorporated) organisation who are operating in the Murray Bridge region to access a Bridge to Car vehicle. Feedback from users will be vital for the future directions and planning of the project.

Information about the Bridge to Cars pilot how to book a vehicle is available via the website:

www.bridgetocars.com.au

Three easy steps to access vehicles via this pilot are listed on this [website](#):

Step 1: Complete the Login Request to get a username and password

Step 2: Book your Bridge to Cars vehicle

Step 3: Tell us about your experience once you have used Bridge to Cars

The pilot has attracted positive media interest and support.

- Check out ABC's coverage of Bridge to Cars on 14th April 2019 via this [link](#).
- More media coverage can be viewed on the Bridge to Cars website's media page [here](#).

A pilot evaluation and summary report is expected to be completed and subsequently published during the second half of 2019.