

## **GREAT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT Inc**

is a charitable organisation and was formed on the 1st July 2004 with the amalgamation of Mountains Community Transport (started in 1986) and Nepean Community Transport (started in 1987). GCT is managed by a community based board of management and is primarily funded through the Home and Community Care (HACC) program (a Federal/State government initiative), assisting the frail aged, people with disabilities and their carers to remain living independently in their own homes.

Great Community Transport initially received funding through the Dept of Community services - WSAAS (Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme ) to pilot a 4 year project called Passengers' Choice- (now branded as SmartLink Transport) in the Penrith, Blue Mountains & Hawkesbury Local Government Areas.

The aim is to be a one-stop-shop for local transport information, a booking (spare seat sharing scheme) service and a bus brokerage scheme, expanding transport options for the "transport disadvantaged" people living in the 3 LGAs. These include people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the elderly living in the community or in hostels, youth, indigenous people as well as those people who are isolated through lack of access to appropriate transport .

Additional funding support was received from the Federal Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts – ITOL program to develop the Demand Responsive Transport software.

The NSW Ministry of Transport funded the Transport Register software and the NSW Department of Commerce are hosting the website.

Support for the upgrading of drivers who are 25 yrs or over from their car licences up to Medium Rigid licences for the Volunteer Driver Pool, has come from TAFE Nirimba, NSW Ministry of Transport and local bus companies such as Westbus and Blue Mountains Bus Co.



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**GREAT Community Transport Inc**

..... Linking community through transport



[www.smartlinktransport.org.au](http://www.smartlinktransport.org.au)



# SmartLink Transport Website Features



The SmartLink Transport website is an interactive tool allowing those in need of transport to locate information, to register their needs and, where appropriate, to book their transport, if there are known spare seats on one of the vehicles in the Demand Responsive Transport program, or to book a small community vehicles through the Transport register.

Information and links to mainstream transport services will be available from the website. Tel 131 500 and [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au) provide information for mainstream transport only and have information on mainstream accessible transport.

SmartLink Transport is not in competition with mainstream transport, its market is those people, who for a variety of reasons cannot access mainstream transport. There is a component where users can identify any special transport requirements i.e. accessible transport. The systems will record numbers of website hits, report on passenger numbers, kilometers travelled, transport types and destinations.

## Transport Register

Many community groups don't have access to a vehicle/s for small group outings and don't have the funds to hire a vehicle from private charter operators or a vehicle hire company. Options for small group transports are often limited to negotiating with other groups to secure a vehicle on a cost return basis or donation, thus groups need to have access to a centralized system that will provide them with information as to what vehicles are available for hire and to improve groups access to book them.

The SmartLink Transport Register will be a web-based register of small group vehicles available for hire to approved Transport Register group members.

The Transport Register will be supported by a Volunteer Drivers' Pool where community groups will be able to request help from a driver for a small contribution to the Register.



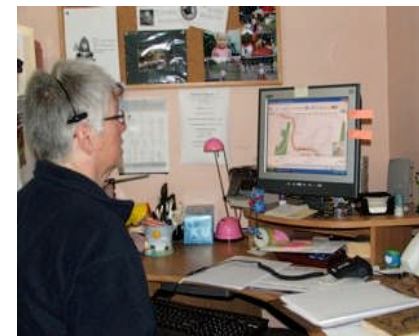
## Demand Responsive Transport

The DRT system is creating an e-market for passenger transport services which will:

- i) reduce the costs of providing public and community transport services by making more efficient use of service capacity;
- ii) alleviate locational and transport disadvantage by facilitating the introduction of flexible transport services;

This is an automated cross-modal booking and scheduling system that will increase the utilisation of existing services, allow for the trialing of flexible bus services and facilitate the development of a pool of transport resources that can be contracted to deliver services in response to passenger need/demand.

The system will also provide financial information that will facilitate the shared use of



resources and cross-billing. It will also provide reports for service information that will assist in transport planning in the region.

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