

## Community Vehicle Service Report – December, 2014

- Community Vehicle Coordinator** A driver meeting was held December 8 and Graeme advised that as he has resigned from the SIRA Committee, he has also resigned as the Community Vehicle Coordinator. He will finish this role as of 31 December 2014.
- David Hegarty has agreed to fill the role of Coordinator and attended the first part of the meeting. He will take on the responsibility of negotiating a new service agreement, together with Cass, as the existing agreement with Transport for NSW expires on 30 June 2015.
- Funding** The community vehicle is funded by Transport for NSW as a Community Transport Program (CTP). We have recently been advised by Transport for NSW that we must also comply with the standards associated with the Home and Community Care Program (HACC Program) even though we receive no funding under this program.
- Transport for NSW accepts that it would be totally impractical for us for us to comply with the HACC accreditation requirements and noted that future service contracts will become even more onerous as the Commonwealth is taking over responsibility for aged care. It is also looking to roll the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) into these arrangements.
- In addition, Community Transport has recently been included in the amended Public Transport Act which will extend the recently introduced community transport driver safety framework.
- It was recommended that we hold discussions with larger organisations within our area and Pittwater Council, to discuss options concerning partnerships / alliances for the future to alleviate the pressure surrounding the increased compliance requirements whilst still being able to provide service to the residents of Scotland Island.
- There was no threat to our ongoing funding provided we can address the compliance issue. It was acknowledged that we were well and truly exceeding the number of trips we are being funded to provide (we are in fact providing an “efficiency dividend”).
- Driver Accreditation** Transport for NSW has adopted a Community Transport Driver Safety Framework which requires:
- A National Criminal History Record Check for drivers every three years
  - All drivers passing a health assessment, equivalent to bus and taxi drivers, every three years
  - All new volunteer drivers are required to meet the new requirements as from July 2013.
  - Existing drivers have until June 2015 to meet the requirements.
  - SIRA has agreed that all drivers should be reimbursed for the cost of complying with these requirements.

**Working with Children**

Under the Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012 unaccompanied children (anybody under 18 years of age) cannot be carried in the community vehicle unless all drivers have a Working With Children Check.

As we do not meet this requirement all children carried in the community vehicle must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

If the responsible adult places the child in the vehicle and then leaves the vehicle the driver must also leave the vehicle and ensure the responsible adult is within clear sight at all times (e.g. when collecting groceries from a jetty. If not the responsible adult must take the child with them.

The drivers have been advised of this requirement and the Operations Manual will be updated accordingly with this information.