

Well, it is hard to believe that it is now just over 12 months since we have published our first SActa newsletter under your new revamped committee. I trust that you have found our newsletter both useful and informative. We would relish your feedback, is there anything that you may wish to discuss or have included in future editions? If so, please drop me a line, and we will do our best to include it.

Rest assured, your committee has been very proactive and working very cohesively with our national peak body, ACTA. For those who may not be aware, I am now chair of both state and federal peak bodies. I also understand that with my appointment as the federal chair, this is the first time that this position has been held in South Australia. This places us in the perfect position to hopefully have greater influence for all community transport providers across Australia, and this will help to ensure that South Australia is not left out.

It was most pleasing to have our CPN contracts extended through to the end of February 2025.

Your committee had several meetings with senior people at both DHS and DIT prior to this announcement. Tammy Shepherd and I met with Nick



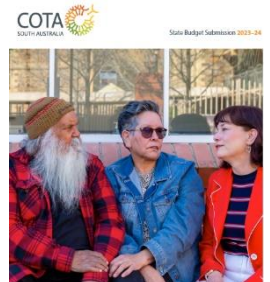
Antonopoulos, Ministerial Adviser, Office of the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining, and his team. It was a most engaging and productive meeting. Unfortunately, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis became unavailable at the last-minute due to cabinet running well over time. Nevertheless, we were able to get our message across regarding the current obstacles facing community transport providers within SA, and to hopefully provide some solutions whilst there.

Critical meetings were also held with Ruth Ambler and the DHS team. This was a most informative and interactive meeting. Both parties left with a better understanding of each other's needs and challenges. I have also had several opportunities to speak with the Hon. Nat Cook, Minister for Human Services over the past 5-6 months. She is deeply interested in our sector and how importantly it impacts and interacts with all facets of our respective communities.

In other good news, I spent time towards the end of last year working with COTA SA regarding their

“COTA SA STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023-2024”.

We should all be pleased to see Community Transport receiving a mention under “Priority Three” (page 10) with a more detailed report on page 26. Please click [here](#) to read in more detail about what COTA SA had to say about community transport.



It does mention in this report that **“SA acknowledges that the Australian Community Transport Association advocates strongly to federal bodies on behalf of community transport providers to ensure that there is adequate funding to meet community needs.”** To that end, ACTA has been exceptionally proactive, and we have now held several meetings under” Chatham House Rules” with Nick Morgan and his DoH team. This collaboration is proving to be very effective with our common goal to find an acceptable and fair funding platform (matrix) post 30th June 2024. Thank you to those members who have supplied their data to Murray Coates (based in Canberra) our new Executive Officer for ACTA who was appointed to the role in late 2022. Murray is doing tremendous work with the use of this data regarding a potential new **“Variable Pricing Matrix, including ‘Thin’ Markets for Community Transport.** We have come a long way from the initially proposed Fee for Service model. All going well we are hoping that everyone is satisfied with the outcome. Here is a brief update on ACTA’s recent activities from Murray Coates, ACTA EO:-



Commonwealth Reform Update

The positive working relationship continues with the Department of Health and aged care. We are working with them to arrive at a position that ensures a sustainable, quality, and easy to administer system beyond 2024. This will mean change, but in representing our members this means positive change for services and our clients. Although nothing has been agreed to by the government, the core aspect is a National Variable Pricing Matrix.

We will look to having a webinar in the coming month to further update you on what this might look like. We thank the Department for their ongoing cooperation and discussions.

ACTA National Conference - Melbourne 7th and 8th June -SAVE THE DATE

The theme for this year's ACTA national conference will be Connecting Communities. The subtopics - Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Transport.



We already have a great list of speakers and the Sundowner drinks occurring on the first night has a confirmed special guest attending for your enjoyment. The web page will be launched shortly with more details.

The consistent and solutions-based advocacy work we have been doing sits perfectly within the Four Strategic Pillars that your SActa committee developed and focused on last year to provide sound leadership and direction for its members.

Our Four Strategic Pillars:

- ***Policy influence***
- ***Sustainability***
- ***Growth and Innovation***
- ***Appropriate Funding***

Just a reminder, we mentioned this opportunity last year in our newsletter. **There are CHSP Ad Hoc funds (GO5672) under the "Assistance with Increased Fuel Costs initiative for the period 1 July 2022 to 30th June 2023"** that are available to help run your community transport operation. Do not let this chance slip by you. Make an application today!

We also plan to participate again this year at the 2023 Ageing, Disability and Lifestyle Expo at Wayville Showgrounds. As a member of SActa we seek your active support of this wonderful event to showcase how vital community transport is in our communities. Do not leave it up to a small few to carry the weight and responsibility of the entire sector here in SA. Please show us that you care about the important role that we all have with community transport. If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you join us. More details will be released soon. Feel free to contact us in the meantime.

I was interested to read recently about the developments with "Keoride - Transport on Demand" in the following areas, Mount Barker, Nairne, and Littlehampton plus the Barossa Valley. Keoride has been happening in the

inner-city area of Sydney for a few years, it is mainly used for on demand passengers picking up and taking them to a bus station or a Train station, it is heavily subsidised, and they normally operate in a confined area. They turn over big passenger numbers because they target the Mass environment for first mile and last mile." The preferred coverage areas would be city, inner city and peri-urban generally. If you would like to read more about the SA Keoride trial, click [here](#)



Just a quick update on your SActa committee. We would like to thank Laura Lewis who recently stepped down as your Treasurer. Your commitment to this role was appreciated by your fellow committee members. We now welcome Kathy Spink's not only to the SActa committee but also to the role of Treasurer. We have no doubt that she will perform admirably. Kathy heads up the Community Supports Team for Active Ageing at the City of Onkaparinga



Speaking of new additions to the SActa committee, Sarah Hollamby from St. Johns SA has also joined your committee. We wish her well and thank her for her willingness to step up and have a go.

I would like to thank all our committee members, and SActa members for your continued support of your state peak body for community transport. We are making a difference and we are receiving sound traffic to our website whilst I have fielded several emails and phone calls regarding community transport matters. It was nice to recently receive the following note from Kit Milne, Funding Arrangement Manager, Community Grants Hub, South Australian State Office, ***"As a peak body, I am sure it must be encouraging to see regular enquiries coming through from organisations seeking opportunities to connect and explore options around community transport....."***. We thank Kit for her support and this kind note.

As always, feel free to contact me on my mobile: 0419 362 519 should you have any questions or comments you would like to raise with either myself or your SActa committee.

Yours sincerely,
David McDonald
Chair

[SActa](#)

