

Top stories in this newsletter



GRANT
opportunity GO4265



ACTA
Support-at-home
advocacy paper



DATA
Dashboard Data



EXPO
Friday 28 &
Saturday 29 Oct

Welcome to our SActa Winter Edition Newsletter 2022. We hope that you enjoyed reading our April Edition and the new format in which we presented information on your committees' recent activities. Likewise, I trust that you enjoy and gain much valuable information from reading your Winter Edition. Please feel most welcome to provide us with feedback and any suggestions on what you may like included in our Spring Edition or any future editions.

Over the past few months, we have continued to be proactive with our advocacy work with a continued commitment to support our members to hopefully achieve positive outcomes. With our new State government now settled in we will shortly recommence our work on building strong relationships with the new incumbents and their respective agencies. We are continuing to work very closely with ACTA our peak national body regarding national issues and the proposed new funding model, more of that in this newsletter. See below a summary overview of our recent activities for your interest and information.

STRATEGY:

For those members that may have missed our last newsletter we have included a copy of the recently formulated SActa Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 below. This strategic summary is underpinned by some key documents including the Strategic Business Plan 2022 – 2025 and our Action Plan and Timeline 2022 – 2025.

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

Purpose

Provide information and advocacy for transport disadvantaged communities to secure equitable transport throughout South Australia.

Vision

To be supportive of members and transport disadvantaged communities to ensure sustainable transport services in South Australia.

Our guiding principles

- Commitment to support members and community with positive transport outcomes
- Demonstrate a best practice governance model
- Build effective relationships with stakeholders, government agencies and transport providers
- Implement strategies and goals identified in our Strategic Plan

Four Strategic Priorities

POLICY
INFLUENCE

SUSTAINABILITY

GROWTH AND
INNOVATION

APPROPRIATE
FUNDING



Constitution review

You will be pleased to know that your new SActa Constitution is almost ready for presentation to all members prior to the Sacta 2022 AGM being held on Tuesday the 8th of November at 12 Noon. As mentioned previously, this has been a long and arduous task but certainly worth the effort. The current constitution was put in place back in 2015 and has not been reviewed until now. The revised constitution brings us up to speed regarding good governance, best practice and meets all current legal and statutory requirements. It would be remiss of me not to publicly thank Rachel Thompson from our ACTA Board who has worked closely with your SActa Committee to ensure that our new constitution is of the highest standard. The next steps in this process will be for your SActa Committee to perform a final review of the document prior to it being circulated to all members for consideration. This will be done approximately 21 days prior to the AGM where it will be hopefully adopted by passing of a resolution.

Advocacy:

ACTA:

Your committee continues to work closely with ACTA our national peak body. As your Chair and South Australian representative on the ACTA board, I recently attended a DHS workshop in Canberra on the 19th of April 2022 and Tammy Shepherd participated via Zoom. Clearly there are major concerns surrounding the proposed new funding model under the Support at Home Program (SAHP). Much work has been put into advocating against this proposed change on behalf of all members in conjunction with ACTA. To that end we have had Movement and Place Consulting prepare an advocacy paper on our behalf to argue against any existing change for at least the next 2 years (FY24). A copy of paper can be read [here](#)

A cover letter for the “Rethinking the Support-at-Home Program for Community Transport” advocacy paper, will be emailed to SActa members so that you can put your organisation’s branding and distribute to your local, state, and federal representatives. It is important that you ALL get behind this initiative to ensure that we are a united voice and that we are heard. I would also recommend that you, as a minimum, request a meeting with your local representative as a follow up to the correspondence once sent to discuss the advocacy paper in person.

Your committee will address the advocacy paper at both a state and federal level in conjunction with ACTA. Here is a

small extract from the advocacy paper which I cannot recommend strongly enough that you must read: -

“.....The Royal Commission into Aged Care (2021) found that transport services are particularly critical in social supports (especially in reducing and preventing social isolation and loneliness among older people). It is specified in Recommendation 33 (p.167-9 of vol. 3A) that transport service-types as part of a social supports category should be grant-funded. The reasons for this are quoted from The Royal Commission below.

We recommend this category of social support services be grant funded because they:

- Have substantial infrastructure and capital costs—for example, in transport fleets or centres
- Are often voluntary-managed and community-based organisations with high numbers of all volunteers
- Can provide some innovative benefits when offered in combination.



Despite this clear Royal Commission finding, SAHP proposes that transport services be no longer grant-funded but instead be funded on an ad hoc, “for service” basis. Grant funding enables CT providers the flexibility to organise services and allocate resources in a way which enables them to meet a range of client needs. Management of CT services depends on the service area, scale of coverage, client numbers and locations. Grant funding models provide more reliable funding of CT services, enabling CT providers to:

- Procure, maintain, and store vehicles and other equipment – including vehicles which can accommodate wheelchairs
- Train staff to provide a high level of care to various clients with unique needs
- Pay drivers where volunteers are not available
- Organising complex bookings, managing volunteers, and rostering vehicles (optimised by long-term paid staff with deep understanding of client needs)
- Advertise services through a range of media (particularly to reach people with literacy issues and where English is a second language)
- Maintain operations when demand periodically drops or when clients are hesitant to travel (which has been a common experience through the bushfires, flooding and the COVID-19 outbreak, lockdowns and recovery)

Given many of these costs are fixed, it makes it very difficult to organise cash flow when funding is provided on an ad hoc basis.

For not-for-profit entities (90% of CT providers) who make thin margins, this would likely make operations precarious. Providers would need to adapt by making decisions based on revenue flow, rather than for client and community benefit.....”



CHSP Ad Hoc Fuel Funding Proposal Grant Opportunity (GO4265)

In further advocacy work your committee has been working with ACTA seeking assistance via the Commonwealth Home Support Programme regarding assistance with increased fuel costs for CHSP Transport Providers. The good news is that we have been successful, largely thanks to the excellent work performed by Terry O’Toole Deputy Chair on the ACTA Board. For those who may have missed this opportunity, please see below: -

Please refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on the [Grants Connect website](#) for further information regarding this grant opportunity.

DHS CPN Contract Updates

As you are all no doubt aware we recently received correspondence from Sandra Robinson - Manager, Community Connections, Community Investment and Support stating that they had been seeking direction from the new minister regarding CPN’s.

In her correspondence she advised us that the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Nat Cook (MP) has endorsed an eight-month extension for the Community Passenger Network. These extended months will give them the time needed to consult with us and other stakeholders, as well as several state government agencies, to explore:

- regional CPN coverage
- community transport needs
- alignment of CPN outcomes with other SA Government priorities, the new DHS Social Impact Framework, and the Community Connections program
- integration of Community Transport systems across government.

We are aware some of you have already expressed concerns about only receiving an 8-month extension as opposed to a 12-month extension. It is our intention to work with DHS regarding this announcement. It is hoped that we will be able to meet in the future with key people

including, but not limited to the people listed below, to discuss what a vital part of the community, community transport is and that transport disadvantaged people in our community should not be neglected or overlooked in any way by devaluing the value of community transport providers or their ability to operate effectively and efficiently.

- SA Premier – Peter Malinauskas,
- Tom Koutsantonis - Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.
- Chris Picton, Minister for Health, and Wellbeing
- Natalie Cook, Minister for Human Services DHS
- Ruth Ambler, Executive Director Community Investment and Support
- Caroline Lock, Director Community and Social Investment Community Investment and Support
- Sandra Robinson, Manager Community Connections Community and Social Investment Community Investment and Support

Should you have any concerns regarding the proposed changes or the future funding of CPN providers please email on the contact listed at the bottom of the newsletter.



Dashboard Data:

As mentioned previously our “Dashboard of Community Transport Data” is ready for ALL Community Passenger Networks to contribute. SActa is asking you to provide three years of data so we can measure the impact of Covid as well as a general summary of transport trends in South Australia. Charles Mountain – Senior Manager, Road Safety – RAA has generously offered resources (in-kind) to collate and provide a synopsis which SActa will use for dynamic advocacy papers for our members to highlight how fundamental Community Transport is to all transport disadvantaged South Australians. The data report is intended to help improve participant outcomes and advocate for appropriate funding by both State and Federal Government.

The source of the data provided is from South Australian Community Passenger Networks for the purpose of enabling members, Government agencies and public insight into the benefit of Community Transport for all transport disadvantaged South Australians. The Data will be collated and presented to SActa by the RAA for advocacy purposes. This will be done on a Confidential basis.

Watch out in your inboxes for our request for this data which you should receive following this newsletter 2022.

We will be requesting data for FY20, FY21 and FY22 so that we can also determine what impact the COVID pandemic has had on our community transport operations.

Events:



“My Life Choices” – [Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo](#):

Plans are well under way for SActa to represent all current members at this year’s, “My Life Choices” – Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo at the Wayville Showgrounds on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 October 2022.

This event in 2021 had 3,753 attendees with 190 organisations on display. This great networking and marketing opportunity provides members with exposure and extensive reporting data.

SActa are calling for member participation and resources to share on the day. Sally Allen from Community Care and Transport Inc. will be reaching out to you over the next month or so to request copies of any brochures, information, or merchandise that you wish to have made available on the day to promote your service.



Mini-Forum

We are in the process of developing a member mini forum, in a private room between 10-12 noon with up to three guest speakers to be held in conjunction with the Expo on Friday the 28th of October. This is yet to be confirmed. An on-site inspection is being held on Thursday the 16th of June 2022. Once this is completed and confirmed, we will begin to lock in our guest speakers on the day. Note, this will be at no charge to members who wish to attend and will only proceed subject to attendee participant numbers being confirmed. We are hoping you will all get behind this initiative. If you are unable to commit to helping in the SActa Exhibitor’s stall, please book some time in your calendar to attend the mini forum it will be worth your time. Please contact SActa via info@sacta.net to register to help in the stall or provide marketing materials or book for the forum.



AGM 2022

The SActa Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 12 Noon Tuesday 8 November at the LGA building 148 Frome St, Adelaide SA 5000 we welcome new members and encourage any nominations for the committee.

Local Government Ageing Well

Transport is on the agenda for many councils in SA. The City of West Torrens currently has a Transport and Movement Strategy out for consultation click [here](#) to view.

Queen’s Birthday and Volunteers Day (South Australia only), Monday 13 June 2022

To recognise the significant contribution made by volunteers across the state, the Government of South Australia has proclaimed a special day in their honour. Volunteers Day is celebrated on the Monday of the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June every year. Annually in SA over 60,000 hours are contributed to community transport. Thank you to all the volunteer drivers that have contributed to our respective communities.

Regarding our April newsletter data, it was pleasing to see 60% of SActa members viewed the last newsletter. We hope you found it informative and welcome your feedback or suggestions for future editions.

Please note that I will be attending the VICTAS Conference in Victoria in early June 2022. It appears to have a very strong line up of guest speakers. Should anything of note come to the forefront during the conference I will report that back to you in our Spring newsletter or sooner should the matter have a sense of urgency surrounding it.

I will also take this opportunity as your Interim SActa Chair to thank you once again for your continued support of your SA based peak Community Transport body as together, we continue to “Build A better SActa” for the benefit of all members.

Feel free to contact me via email info@sacta.net or 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
Interim Chair

[SActa](#)