

A newsletter brought to you by South Australian Community Transport Association.

## ISSUE 4

## SUMMER EDITION NOVEMBER 2022



### SActa 2021-22 Annual Report

Hello to our SActa Summer Edition Newsletter 2022. It is hard to believe that another year is now drawing to a close. Like everyone, now is the time to reflect on the past year of 2022 and reset ourselves again in anticipation of the coming new year 2023.

Personally, for me, some of the reflection revolves around our industry sector of Community Transport. We all regularly assist those in our communities who are transport disadvantaged. On a small-scale community transport (CT) provider in South Australia as evidenced by our media release on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, reflect the significant work that it is happening in South Australia every day, day in, day out by CT providers.



A massive thank you to all SActa members within our Community Passenger Networks who consistently deliver this vital service to our communities with care and a wholehearted commitment that is worthy of recognition. You help connect transport disadvantaged people so they may be socially engaged and ensure that they do not miss out on critical medical and social engagements that are necessary to help maintain their independence and health, both physical and mental. Well done to all SActa members!



As your state peak body, there is so much that we have achieved on your behalf in the past year. Here is a just summary of SActa's accomplishments: -

- Developed a new contemporary constitution that now meets all legal and expected governance requirements of today. The new constitution was ratified by a Special Resolution by all members that were present at our 2022 AGM held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. The previous constitution had been in place since 2015 and should have been reviewed and replaced years ago.
- Provided a Purpose and Vision for our association.
- Implemented our own “Guiding Principles”
- Developed a Strategic Plan to help guide us into the future beginning in 2022 and taking us through to 2025 where the plan will again undertake a thorough review process.
- Drafted new governance and best practice policies.
- Initiated regular member newsletters on a quarterly/seasonal basis (Autumn/Winter/Spring and Summer).
- Produced our first ever printed Annual Report for 2022 which is now on our SActa website: <https://www.sacta.net/>
- Completed our first Dashboard Data for the Community Passenger Networks in South Australia which not only reflects the work that they do but also the growth in the demand for community transport over the past few years. Clients have risen by 20.3% and Total Trips by 11.3% over the past 2 years.



- For the first time ever SActa was present at the MyLifeChoices – Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo at Wayville Showgrounds this year to represent its members. It was most encouraging to receive so many

enquiries regarding how to access community transport. It was also surprising that there is still so much lack of awareness of who the providers of community transport in South Australia are and what services they can deliver. To that end, I would implore all our members to be most proactive in promoting and marketing their services. Everyone who is transport disadvantaged in your respective communities must be made aware of your services.



Photo L-R - Jenny Hughes - CEO, the Catalyst Foundation, David McDonald - CEO, Care in Motion, the Hon. Nat Cook MP SA, Minister for Human Services and Sarah Bartholomeusz - Chair, the Catalyst Foundation.

- Advocacy work continues to be at the forefront of the work we do on members' behalf. This is done in conjunction with our national peak body, ACTA. The major positive outcome achieved this year is having "block funding" retained until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This will allow us more time to hopefully work on an agreed model for when the Support at Home Program is introduced. At a state level, we are expecting an announcement of what the future CPN funding will look like from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 onwards. Meetings and discussions have been held with several DHS representatives, meetings with the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis' - Minister for Infrastructure and Transport advisors, along with the Hon. Nat Cook - Minister for Human Services. Local members and federal members have also been communicated with.

It would be remiss of me now that I have been elected as your SActa Chair (previously Interim-Chair) at our recent AGM, to not thank my fellow committee members and your representatives on the committee. Our committee members represent your best interests as unpaid volunteers. As expected, any volunteering position does require a genuine, selfless commitment which naturally requires some after-hours work. Tammy Shepherd, our Communications Officer, has made numerous sacrifices since taking on her role and the quality of skill set that she has contributed to our cause should not go unrecognised. Her work in producing our newsletters, survey monkeys, Annual Report, general communications, and overall contribution has been second

to none. As your Chair, on behalf of your committee and our members, thank you so much for your work.

I would also like to thank Laura Lewis who has recently stood down as our Treasurer for family reasons for just "having a go" when no one else wanted to take on the role. We wish you well Laura. Thanks to Damien Graham, Lyn Forster, and Georgina Bracken for your contribution to SActa in helping it to get back on track. You should all feel pleased that we have made significant inroads in that regard.



We welcome both Kathy Binks - City of Onkaparinga and Sarah Hollamby - St John onto our new committee. Both have excellent skill sets and will be great contributors over the coming year.

In closing, I would also like to say thank you to Sandra Robinson DHS for her contribution to our efforts and we wish her well with her new career challenge. We also welcome Mia Zaccardo as Sandra's replacement, and we are looking forward to working with her.

Thank you 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.

Please 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. Your contributions to our newsletters would also be valued and appreciated.



Wishing you well during the summer period and hope that you have time to relax, reflect and reset with your family and friends for the New Year ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
David McDonald  
Interim Chair  
[SActa](#)