

# TransportConnections

## What is Transport Connections?

Transport Connections is about communities working together to improve local transport. There are 32 projects active throughout all Victorian rural, regional and interface municipalities.

Through local partnerships and the use of existing assets and services such as taxis, school buses, community buses and volunteers, communities are able to develop innovative approaches that can make participation in community life easier for people with limited access to transport.

Transport Connections is an \$18.3 million Victorian Government investment that provides funding to help communities set up working groups, employ a coordinator and develop a range of transport initiatives.

A Transport Connections Flexible Fund helps to deliver small-scale localised initiatives across the State. These include extensions to existing services or the implementation of new trial services.

Transport Connections is a joint initiative of the Department of Planning and Community Development, Department of Infrastructure, Department of Human Services and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

## What can Transport Connections do?

Transport is consistently rated by rural and regional communities as one of the most significant barriers to accessing services, employment and social networks.

Transport Connections projects have demonstrated the potential of working with the community to make better use of existing transport resources. The projects help to make services more accessible by complementing existing transport options rather than competing with local transport services.

Transport Connections projects across the State have already been successful in connecting people, their local communities and improving access to services. Examples include:

- A mini-bus being used to transport people to the nearby town for appointments, delivering blood products to the nearest hospital and collecting groceries to drop off to house-bound residents on the return trip;
- A bus network that has reconnected socially isolated people to their major regional centre, using under-utilised school buses and community buses; and
- An initiative that uses volunteer transport and the V/Line network to assist people in regional and rural Victoria to attend medical appointments in Melbourne.

For more information, email [transport.connections@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:transport.connections@dpcd.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au)