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MEDIA RELEASE

Tackling transport barriers in Regional South Australia

A new pilot program will be launched in Murray Bridge this month in a bid to address the lack of transport options for regional South Australian's needing transport to meet specific needs.

'Bridge to Cars' is a grass roots initiative of the not-for-profit, government and community sectors focussed on tackling transport issues which are often common across regional South Australia.

In 2017, Carers SA chaired a Transport and Care Round Table, as part of the Don Dunstan Foundation's Social Capital Residency Program with the aim of discussing the transport challenges facing the community.

Since that event a group of interested participants from a variety of organisations and sectors have come together to develop a collaborative pilot that seeks to address some of the persistent issues organisations face with the provision of transport. These issues include expense, vehicle availability and the isolation facing their clients/customers/community members.

David Militz, Chief Executive Officer, Carers SA said "The purpose of the pilot is to determine a model of shared transport resources. This model could then meet the transport needs of organisations and the wider community in an affordable way."

"Regional South Australians are often disadvantaged in accessing transport for various appointments, since public transport isn't a viable option." said Jo Podoliak, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland. "We congratulate the project partners in piloting this approach where vehicle sharing might address this issue in the region."

During the pilot, which will operate from 6 May until the 30 June 2019, all not-for-profit organisations that operate in the Murray Bridge area will have access to a shared pool of three vehicles via an online booking service at www.bridgetocars.com.au.

"Accessing the vehicles is free during the initial pilot period. All that is required is for organisations who utilise the vehicles to return them in good condition, with a full tank of petrol and to provide open feedback in short surveys about the experience," Mr Militz said.

The information provided in the surveys will help Carers SA and its Partners evaluate the pilot program and its processes. This feedback will also allow study into the feasibility of expanding the pilot program to other regions.

Currently, there is no formal funding supporting this pilot. It is a true 'grass roots' initiative by the organisations who provide cars and those who support the pilot in other ways.

To hire a car, visit www.bridgetocars.com.au and click Book Now.

"Please make use of this opportunity – hire a car from 'Bridge to Cars' and spread the word to other not-for-profit organisations who may benefit from utilising the shared pool of vehicles."





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“We believe this program can provide great value in our local community. We ask for the support of our not-for-profit, government and community sectors in making this innovative pilot a success so that we can roll it out more broadly.” Said David.

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