



Community help keeps her mobile

Leesa Smith

LITTLE Bay resident Victoria Evans is one of the lucky ones, as she has not fallen through the community transport funding cracks.

As she is only 54, Ms Evans does not fit the bill of frail aged but the operators of Randwick and Waverley Community Transport have accommodated Ms Evans after her options ran out.

Until she injured her knee in a bad fall in March, Ms Evans was working full-time, driving her car and taking long walks.

She is now confined to her home unless she uses the community transport.

Ms Evans was left isolated after her attempts to utilise the public transport system resulted in two more falls.

Ms Evans said being able to use the community transport service meant everything to her.

"I would be totally and absolutely lost without their help – I would probably have another broken leg," she said.

"I would be taking my own life in my hands when trying to catch the bus."

Randwick Council has given \$60,000 over three years to the Randwick and Waverley Community Transport service and the may-

or, Bruce Notley-Smith, said community transport had been a sleeper issue.


"Most people are simply unaware of people who fall through the cracks and are unable to use public transport and unable to afford alternative forms of transport," Cr Notley-Smith said.

The Opposition spokeswoman on transport, Gladys Berejiklian, said there were 90,000 community transport trips every year that did not happen.

"It's an underlying issue which doesn't grab the headlines every day, but it's a growing need," she said.

"Unless community transport is there to help people meet their basic needs, it will cause enormous isolation and stress for people who should otherwise have a good quality of life."

A NSW Transport Ministry spokesperson said the funding level for community transport had been maintained.

 Are more of the most vulnerable in our community falling through the cracks? Tell us what you think at southerncourier.com.au.



STEERING AWAY FROM ISOLATION AND LONELINESS: Little Bay resident Victoria Evans says she would be socially isolated without the assistance of Randwick and Waverley Community Transport.
 Photo: ERIN BYRNE