

Steering in the Right Direction: A Koori Approach

“Gulaymaldhaany”

“The Net Makers”

Aboriginal Transport Conference

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WOLLONGONG
City of Innovation

Background

- Historically the Koori community have had limited access to community transport services.
- A number of strategies have been developed to address it.
- In the last twelve months the community transport operators in the Illawarra have joined forces to increase access to the services by the Koori community.

Funding Source

- The program is funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and administered via the Ministry of Transport.
- It is a recurrent funding (\$20,000 per year), across the three Local Government Areas.

Aims of the Services

- The project aims to provide a culturally appropriate transport service to the Elders, people with a disability and their carers who are from Koori background and live in the Wollongong, Kiama and Shellharbour Local Government Areas.

Strategies

- Community Consultation
- Cultural competency
- Establish links with Koori specific agencies within the region
- Networking with other service providers
- Better cooperation and coordination of community transport resources
- Recruitment and training of Koori drivers

Way forward

- A number of Koori drivers have been recruited and trained to upgrade their licence in the Illawarra.
- Wollongong Community Transport Services has employed a Koori Project Transport Officer for a period up to six months to promote the transport service to the Koori Elders, people with a disability and their carers across the three Local Government Areas.
- We have applied for further funding to meet the needs of Koori community in the Illawarra other than the HACC target group, to ensure that the whole community will be serviced.

Case Study 1

Carwoola Elders Day Sea Food Luncheon

- Seniors Elders Sea Food Luncheon Day at Macquarie Fields is a good example to demonstrate that the Koori grape vine is better than the late night news.
- The number of people interested to attend started to increase dramatically reaching 45+, only for the Wollongong and Dapto areas. Given the unexpected response, it was decided to hire a coach.

Case Study 1 (cont)

- Having a great working relationship with the Shoalhaven Community Transport we were able to arrange to have the Elders from Gerringong picked up on the way through.
- The outcome was that all the Elders had a fantastic day, and between the Wollongong, Dapto, & Shoalhaven Transport Services, we had 110 Elders who attended the senior luncheon.

Case Study 2

- Wollongong PCYC needed a bus for their Koori Youth Group on Friday nights. The PCYC Wollongong is doing very well with our kids with 30 of our Koori kids attending on a weekly basis which is fantastic.
- Unfortunately we are unable to service this youth group due to the fact that do not meet the HACC funding criteria.

Case Study 2 (cont)

- In cooperation with Dapto Neighbourhood Community Transport Services, PCYC will be able to access their bus for the youth activities as part of the Future Direction Program.
- Once again, communication and co-operation between two services, resulted in a great outcome for the Koori community.

Future issues confronting our Service

- Limited funds available, which have been identified in the Illawarra Koori Community.
- More partnership funding programs.
- Auspices bodies recognise the need for projects to be longer term.