



HILLSCarPal PILOT PROGRAM - VOLUNTEERS PLEASE APPLY

Wednesday 30 May 2012: The HillsCarPal Pilot program is a community initiative designed to reduce the isolation of senior Hills Shire residents by providing a flexible transport network with the help of local volunteers.

NRMA Motoring & Services has donated \$2,500 to The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc (HCA), co-ordinators of the HillsCarPal Pilot program.

NRMA Director David Bentham said the HillsCarPal program was a necessity for ageing communities and the Hills Shire should be congratulated for exploring transport alternatives for its senior residents. These people would otherwise be isolated by their inability to move around within and outside the Hills Shire," Mr Bentham said.

"Schemes like HillsCarPal operate in the USA and Europe. Volunteer drivers offer to take a five minute detour near the route or destination they are already driving so they can give a local senior a lift."

Local resident and HillsCarPal program coordinator John McQuarrie is encouraging Hills residents to volunteer to ensure the pilot program is launched successfully and on time.

"We are aiming to start the six month pilot program this July with 10-15 clients and 50 volunteer drivers- people who are willing to give a senior citizen a lift. We need people to sign up to make this work," Mr McQuarrie said.

"The program has received financial support from The Hills Shire Council, The Community Foundation of North Western Sydney, HCA and now the \$2,500 donation from NRMA. Now we need the people who want to drive and need to be driven," Mr McQuarrie added.

HillsCarpal will be a reliable alternative for many Seniors, who will be able to put their driving days behind them without having to become a recluse, cut off from their community.

To sign up you can go to www.hca.org.au/hillscarpal-pilot, Facebook at HillsCarPal, email hillscarpal@gmail.com or phone 9639 8620.

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