



SENIORS TRANSPORTATION

WHAT IS HillsCarPal?

HillsCarPal is a Community Rideshare transportation service for Sydney Hills Seniors that is provided by police-checked Volunteer Drivers who make a detour to pick up a Senior and take them where they want to go **around Sydney**. Currently, the service uses Secret Facebook Groups to connect Seniors with drivers so that Ride Requests can be filled.



Funding for the establishment of HillsCarPal was provided by The Hills Shire Council, NRMA, The Community Foundation of North Western Sydney and Hills Community Aid (HCA).

HillsCarPal clients contribute an Annual Membership fee of \$40 and \$8.50 per Ride towards the running cost of the service, which is operated entirely by HCA volunteers.

More information about HillsCarPal is available at www.hillscarpal.org.au

WHO HillsCarPal HELPS

Seniors who no longer drive can find themselves shut-in away from their community, particularly as they age and struggle to use public transport. They can easily suffer "Shut-in Syndrome" and withdraw entirely from their community; succumbing in the process to the horrors of loneliness and depression.

Even with current subsidies, Seniors who are on a pension income cannot afford taxi fares to visit old friends or family unless they live close by. And existing Community Transport services do not operate much beyond The Hills Shire boundaries.



Local Pensioners who need to travel across "town" are the ones that HillsCarPal aims to help. The service also provides Rides on weekends, public holidays and at night, if required.

Currently HillsCarPal is enrolling extra driver & facilitator volunteers to provide the service to clients on our waiting list. Part of our training ensures they can make and respond **securely** to Ride Requests. Over 1500 Rides have been successfully provided to date.

A yellow tag with a string, hanging from a blue and purple swoosh. The tag contains the text "SENIORS TRANSPORTATION" in black capital letters.

SENIORS TRANSPORTATION

CONNECTING SENIORS WITH THEIR COMMUNITY

HillsCarPal makes a connection between needy Seniors and those with the heart of a volunteer. Whilst strengthening community links, it allows Seniors to remain independent (at home or in their Retirement Village) without having to always burden family and friends to get around. It uses the technology of today to match each side of the equation i.e. where and when a Client wants to go and what the driver is doing that day ... and a match is made. It's just a structured way that Charlotte's story (below), can happen more often in our community.

Charlotte's Story

"I was shopping at a local shopping mall and as I entered I noticed an elderly woman waiting out the front with a shopping trolley filled with groceries. An hour later when my shopping was complete and I put my groceries in my car I was concerned to notice the same woman still waiting outside the store. I asked if she was OK and she informed me that she was waiting for taxi. She said it is common that taxis don't arrive because the trip is short resulting in only a small fare. I drove her home."

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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