

VICTORIA'S most vulnerable are MISSING OUT ON FEDERAL FUNDING

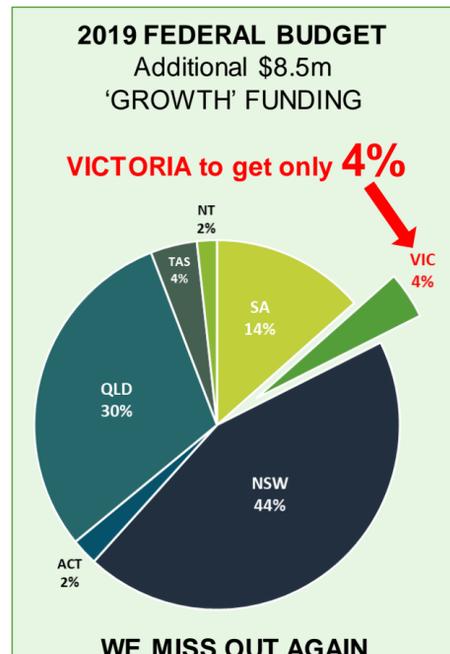
Transport is a vital lifeline to aged and disability services, medical appointments and social outings. Ageing-in-place, and social isolation strategies will FAIL without available transport. Our most vulnerable are suffering.

Federal CHSP Transport Program VICTORIANS ARE MISSING OUT



State	Approximate ongoing per Capita Funding
NT	\$12
TAS	\$12
SA	\$10
ACT	\$9
QLD	\$9
NSW	\$8
VIC	\$1

Based on figures provided by C'wth Government



DEMAND EQUITY FOR VIC'S NFP SERVICE PROVIDERS VIC PROVIDER STORIES

VIC METRO PROVIDER

Population coverage 2,000,000 people
Geographic coverage 3,000 km²

CHSP Funding \$0.60 per capita

VIC RURAL PROVIDER

Population coverage 300,000 people
Geographic coverage 40,000 km²

CHSP Funding \$1.50 per capita

VIC METRO/RURAL PROVIDER

Population coverage 425,000 people
Geographic coverage 8,000 km²

CHSP Funding \$1.90 per capita

VIC METRO PROVIDER

Population coverage 195,000 people
Geographic coverage 168 km²

CHSP Funding \$1.60 per capita

UNDER FUNDED

We are extremely distressed at the inequity of funding for community transport services in Victoria. Why are our elderly not worthy of the same level of services as over 65's in other states?

STAFF IMPACTS

We routinely decline near 1000 service requests per month, and this too is increasing dramatically.... extraordinarily frustrating for everyone – our clients suffer and staff are always heartbroken - they're constantly dealing with client's disappointment and helplessness

PROVIDER IMPACTS

In a fixed, low-funding environment, the stress on our operations is such that we will turn off the MAC referral system. We cannot cope with demand. There is no-one else to take up this demand.

UNDER FUNDED

...our funding base needs to grow **8-fold** to achieve parity with other States.....

IMPACT ON VICTORIANS

Victoria's frail-aged citizens are confronted by a very raw deal – they are missing out on fair and equitable access to CHSP transport services, to enable them to stay healthy and connected to community whilst they continue to live at home. The extent of funding disparity between Victoria and other States is astonishing and impossible to accept.

UNFUNDED DEMAND

We receive 350 new referrals for services each month, but no means of meeting demand; waiting list for services comprises over 3,000 people, and escalating rapidly

CLIENT IMPACTS

..... recently were forced to cut services as a result of sustained losses over many years. The community was not happy, and we don't blame them. Our service is virtually the only option for frail-aged people across our region. It's tough to take when we know that if we were sitting in another State, we would be properly resourced and would be reaching everybody in need

Vast areas of Victoria have no community transport coverage at all !

EXAMPLES OF OTHER STATE'S FUNDING

NSW METRO PROVIDER CHSP Funding \$7.15 per capita

QLD METRO PROVIDER CHSP Funding \$11.48 per capita

NSW REGIONAL PROVIDER CHSP Funding \$15.50 per capita

DEMAND EQUITY FOR VICTORIA'S MOST VULNERABLE PERSONAL STORIES

"There's only one car in our town. It's never available when I need it. I cannot go out earlier because I can't bear weight for too long while waiting to go home. Most times I just stay at home." **Gladys, North East Victoria**

"Its great when it works. I love the volunteer drivers, they make me feel very safe and valued. But what am I supposed to do when they say they can get me there, but not home? I get upset at them. I know I shouldn't. It gets me down.", **Mary, Western Suburbs**

"I had to reschedule my last medical appointment three times because I had no way to get there. They're great people and they say sorry, but I get worried that one day it will hurt my health badly." **Francesco, Western Suburbs**

"The only time I go out of my home is when they take me to the doctor's or the club. I love getting out. It stops me from feeling lonely. I am devastated when they can't fit me in." **Petra, Eastern Suburbs**

"My mother has given up on family gatherings. Its too hard, too disappointing when she thinks she's going to see her older sister, and it falls through because too many other people would miss out if they take Mum all the way. In my circumstances it's too hard for me to take Mum, and there's no-one else. I feel so guilty.", **Jillian, Northern Suburbs**

"My husband is very unwell and lives in a nursing home 30kms away. My transport is great. I know they give me priority. But sometimes they can only get me there, but not back. My son has to travel 3.5 hours just to help me when that happens. He can't do that all of the time.", **Rosa, Eastern Suburbs**

"My son takes me to the markets, when transport can't. Lately, that happens quite a bit. It is the one thing I enjoy each week, that gets me out of home. My son says it's okay and that he's happy to take me. But I can tell he's stressed and has work to do. I feel terrible. I've never wanted to be a burden for anybody. It affects me more than I like to admit." **Ahmed, Northern Suburbs**

"There's a spot on the river that I'd love to visit, but it is a bit out of the way. I used to fish there as a kid, and my father and I used to go there, just us. The transport service is taken up with people travelling to Melbourne hospitals and specialists. They should get help first, no problems with that. But I'd still like to go to my spot and reflect now that I am old." **Terry, Goulburn Valley**

Don't let Victoria's most vulnerable suffer

Accessible and assisted transport makes lives worth living – it is a vital connection to services, support, doctors, community and family.

Evidence shows that connected lives are better lives, AND result in a lower overall cost to the community.

Victoria's disastrously low funding levels are a historical anomaly. They are wreaking havoc with our elderly. It must be corrected now.

CALL-TO-ACTION

DEMAND EQUITY NOW

Contact your local State and Federal members, and candidates, and ask them what they are doing to make sure Victoria's most vulnerable get their fair share of Federal support.



Victorian Community Transport Association

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