

Hi Everyone

Welcome to the winter edition of our events and outings calendar. We've had some wonderful feedback on our social activities and this quarter's line up is equally as impressive! Thanks to the team who work hard to organise and schedule these events across the three local government areas we service.

As you can see, we are doing things a little differently; we have not included Chatterbus our newsletter this quarter. We are planning to print Chatterbus twice a year so we can capture and keep you updated on all the important things that are happening. We will regularly post interesting articles, snap shots of what we are doing and general news on our website. The team at Active Care Network was very busy this quarter as we faced the federal election and advocated strongly against some of the proposed changes for a new funding model for care at home.

Under the proposed new Support at Home program, community transport funding will change to fee for service. The Support at Home program will push cost back onto our clients, communities and consumers, while putting more financial pressure on service providers. Additionally, the role of transport appears to be diminished to a service required only for social connection. The importance and integral role of community transport in maintaining your independence at home, access to allied health and specialised support, and even personal care is ignored. So along with our colleagues in other regions we've been urging the Australian Government to:

- Continue block funding until such time as a sustainable alternative can be agreed upon.
- Listen to what impact the changes will inflict on community,
- Build a funding model which is holistic, and worthy of the Australians who need support to remain independent and happy in their homes.

We joined a convoy of community transport operators and took three buses with some of our most vocal clients to the Prime Minister's electorate to let him know we are not happy with the proposed funding. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and for our clients to get a fair go.

With Winter approaching we urge you to all rug up and take care – get your flu shots and if you feel unwell, stay home and rest up. But if you are full of beans, make sure you take up some of the great trips we have planned – invite a friend or someone new to join the adventure, even visit Floriade. We are still sanitising and cleaning our buses thoroughly and we encourage you to wear your mask if you feel more comfortable. We are slowly increasing the numbers we can take on our buses in line with government health recommendations and hope to be at full capacity by summer.

We are still conducting our Client Advisory Group sessions to talk about our services and ensuring what we are doing meets your needs. If you'd like to be involved ask for Jordon in the Client Care Team.

Stay safe and keep travelling.  
Ben