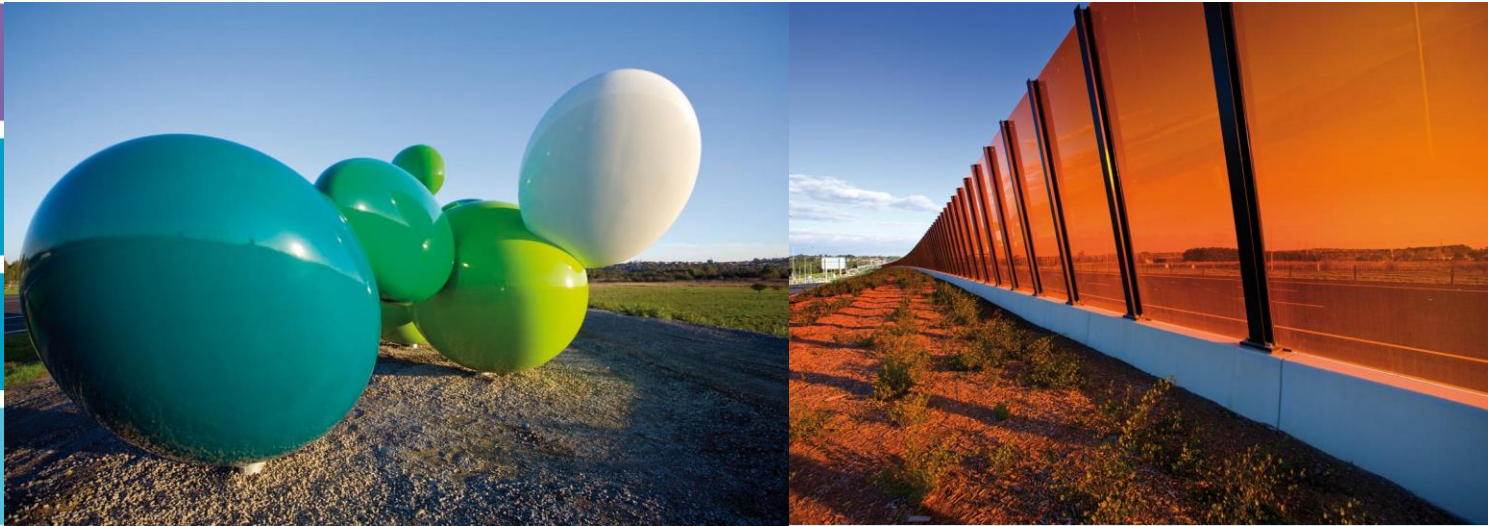


# Transport and Ageing in Victoria

International Federation on Ageing 10<sup>th</sup> Global Conference

Melbourne, Australia: 3 – 6 May 2010

Rachel Davis and Jane Hanna



Department of Transport

## Overview

1. Transport and Ageing in Victoria
2. What we've been doing – policy and pilots
3. What we're planning to do



## Social and Economic Inclusion

*'The transport system should provide a means by which people can access social and economic opportunities to support individual and community wellbeing'*



***"It is important to be mobile  
– yes. When you only live  
within four walls, I reckon  
you're dead." – male aged  
71-85 years, Melbourne***

# Issues identified through Community Consultation

## **Availability**

- of private, public and community transport

## **Affordability**

- of transport services

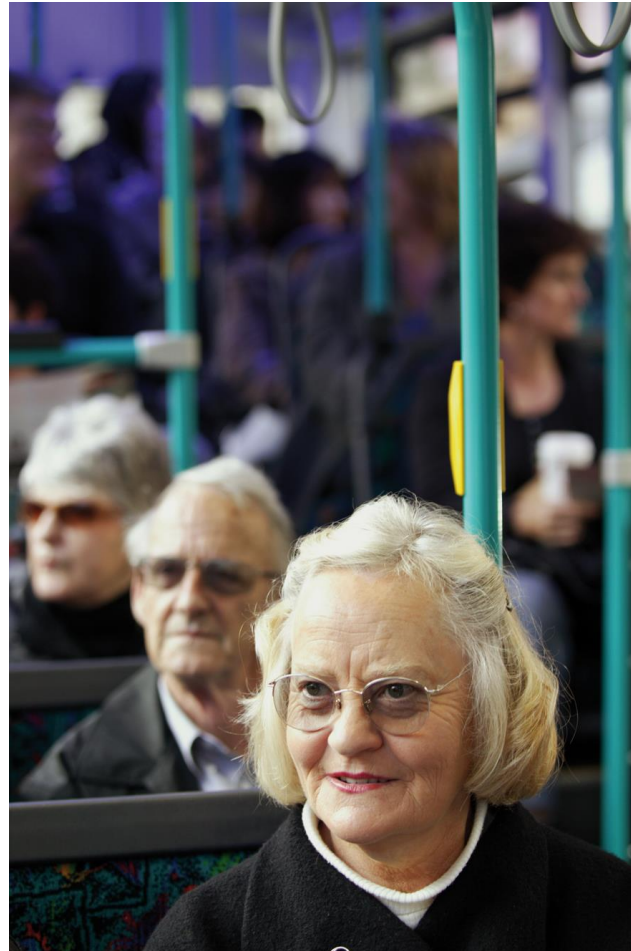
## **Accessibility**

- of transport services and infrastructure
- of information



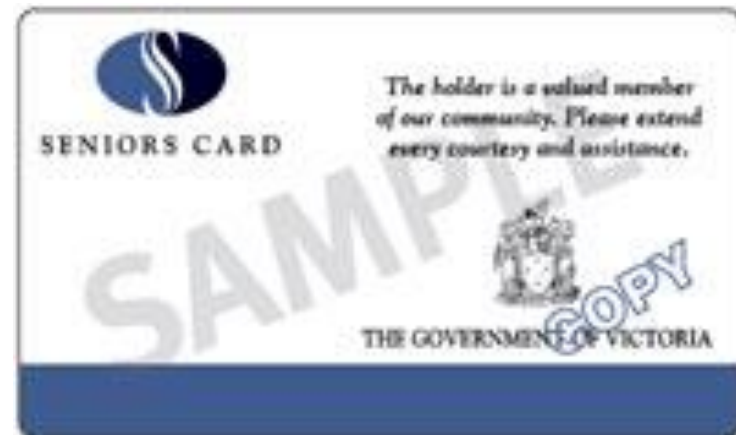
## Availability of Transport

- Increased public transport services
- Wheelchair accessible taxis
- Transport Connections



## Affordability of Transport

- Introduced concessions for seniors on v/line passenger services
- 2 off-peak travel vouchers
- Free Sunday travel for seniors



# Accessibility of Transport

- Improvements in public transport infrastructure (eg platform stops for trams)
- Accessible timetable & public transport information



## We're listening to seniors

*"It would change the fear of losing your licence if you had more information – it might make it easier to look at alternatives." – male aged 71-85 years, Bendigo*

*"My dad finds it difficult to stay connected because he has been driving all his life and never used the public transport system." – family member/ carer of person over 55 years, Melbourne*

*"[Being unable to continue driving] just sneaks up on you... you think it is never going to happen to you" – female aged 71 – 85 years, Wodonga*



# Maintaining Mobility



## Maintaining Mobility - The Transition from Driver to Non-Driver

Identifying practical support to help Older Victorians  
maintain their mobility as they reduce and stop driving

Access at:  
<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/>

Department of Transport

# What we've been doing - Travel Assist Pilot

Aim: increase awareness amongst seniors of mobility options available to them besides driving, and facilitate the use of these

Approach:

1. Phone contact to make an initial assessment of a participant's needs
2. The option of a home visit from a Travel Assist Advisor or an information pack to be sent out
3. The provision of material about alternative modes of travel available for those ceasing to drive
4. The development of a Travel Assist Plan
5. Links to other support programs and services
6. Follow-up support and contact with Advisor



## Since developing their travel plan...

- 24% had reduced driving or stopped driving altogether since developing their plan
- 64% were more aware of other travel options
- 24% increased their level of confidence in walking or using public transport
- 28% indicated their life had changed as a result of the project



## Overall conclusions

- Majority of participants found the Travel Plan and the Travel Advisor process useful
- A small number of participants found it life changing
- The approach was successful in building awareness of transport options – particularly community and public transport
- Many participants saw the benefit of travel plans for preparedness for the future - “rainy day”
- Less resource-intensive model is required





## Looking ahead

- Growing number of older people using the transport system
- Growing diversity of needs for older people using the system
- Different usage patterns for older people
- Different spatial patterns for older people





# What we're planning to do

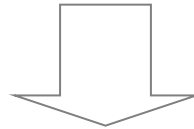
## Work areas:

- Create a better evidence base to inform transport portfolio decision making
- Identify gaps in current program and project delivery to meet the transport needs of older Victorians
- Communicate more effectively with older people about their access and mobility needs and transport choices



# Conclusion

**Social and Economic Inclusion**



**Availability**

**Affordability**

**Accessibility**