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July 2020

Memo from Southern Highlands Community Transport

To all Service Users:

As restrictions are easing with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic there is understandably still some concern and uncertainty amongst the community who require transport services in order to maintain their everyday quality of life.

Southern Highlands Community Transport is deemed an essential service and therefore are committed to continue to provide transport services for all of our service users in line with guidelines and recommendations from the Department of Health and Transport for NSW.

Southern Highlands Community Transport staff and drivers have undergone and will continue to undergo training to meet the health and safety standards in line with the Department of Health guidelines.

This means that good hygiene, and social distancing is being practised and each vehicle is cleaned and sanitised thoroughly after each use each day. Transport and seating arrangements in the following vehicles regarding social distancing will apply;

- Cars – Maximum of 2 separate passengers at any one time (husband and wife – may travel together), no front seat passengers
- Vans – Maximum of 5 passengers at any one time. Direct passengers sit in different rows – unless related. No front seat passengers, bus helper to sit in the rear.
- Buses – Maximum of 10 passengers at any one time. Nobody to sit in the seat immediately behind or beside driver. Passengers to sit in different rows unless related. Try to have an empty row between passengers, no front seat passengers. Bus helper to sit in the rear.

We prefer payment for transport via Visa, Mastercard, Rural Seniors Transport Card or Cheque rather than cash.

As the COVID-19 pandemic changes and new information comes to hand we would like to reassure you that Southern Highlands Community Transport will take immediate action to adapt our services to continue to meet the recommendations of the Department of Health.

Surgical Masks

Surgical masks in the community are only helpful in preventing people who have coronavirus disease from spreading it to others. **Clients suffering from flu like symptoms may be asked to wear a mask** and sit in the rear of the vehicle while being transported.

COVID-19 testing is available at Bowral Hospital. Ring 4861 0200 to make an appointment.

If you are well, you do NOT need to wear a surgical mask. There is little evidence that widespread use of surgical masks in healthy people prevents transmission in public.

Our **Shopping buses** are continuing to operate as per our normal timetable.

Transport **to local appointments and to Sydney and surrounding areas** is still available.

We are currently reviewing our Social Outings to suitable venues and will do a mail out to our existing clients in the next few weeks. For further information please contact the Social Outings Coordinator on 4872 3722.

If you require changes to the services you currently use due to social isolation please contact Southern Highlands Community Transport and we will endeavour to work with you to find a solution to assist you with your request.

Also if you would like to know more about what is happening and the services Community Transport is providing please do not hesitate to give us a call on 4872 3722.

Janice McNamara

Manager

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT