

## Transport

### The Entrance Community Engagement Project - The Benevolent Society

#### 1. One mum's story...

*It can take forever to get anywhere. I'd dismantle the pram and have him in a pouch when he was little. Now he is a toddler it's an acrobatic act, you have to make sure he doesn't run away - then carry the stroller, some people look at you like you are an alien.*

*A luggage compartment at the front would be good. I lie the stroller on the floor and hold it with my foot so it doesn't roll as we go around the corner. If I have groceries, the stroller and the toddler trying not take off. Not enough hands - getting Joe off the bus, I couldn't hold him so I got him to hold onto things so he doesn't fall.*

*It's very hot in summer - phenomenal getting anywhere.*

*Sometimes I felt upset enough to cry. I need to get somewhere (out of the house) had to have a change of scenery. I need to get to places so I can connect with others, I think I had depression.*

*I couldn't do my TAFE course without a car. I would not be able to drop J at day care and then get to Gosford TAFE by 9am.*

*A special bus for mothers and babies to get to places would be good.*

#### 2. Mother interviewed at Chittaway Shopping Centre

"It takes 2 ½ hours to get from Long Jetty to Wyong Hospital on the bus. She had morning sickness and our 10month old and 5 year old [with her]... it's such a big day for everyone"

*(Father who quit work so he could assist his wife to access services she needed)*

#### 3. Mother interviewed at Chittaway Shopping Centre

"If you get a taxi you have to supply both capsules and then what do you do with them when you are shopping... ? I walk from Berkeley Vale to Tuggerah... it's easier !!!"

*(Mother of 9 month old twins and a 3 year old, experiencing depression and agoraphobia)*

#### 4. Mum living at The Entrance with no car.

- Sometimes the drivers don't wait for you to sit down, they drive off.
- The drivers don't help you get on the bus.
- It's really difficult you have to lug a baby and stroller.
- Stressful

- Yes the buses are regular enough. They take along time to get to the destination - not enough direct services. For example it takes 40 minutes to get to Chittaway Shopping Centre, 1 hour to Tuggerah.
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**5. Mother interviewed for home bases support project.**

Home bases services are great, but if you can't get to other things, what's the point?

**6. consultations with Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre July 2005**

- Transport is the most common problem when talking to families with young children. Having no car, isolation from public transport and not having the finance for public transport are the issues these families see as the biggest problem in accessing services for their children.

**7. Parents comments at focus group held at Banksia Family Centre**

**Transport** - The parents discussed the high price of transport, lack of frequency of buses and catching buses after hours was difficult. Getting infants on and off buses and managing more than 1 child on the bus was problematic.

2261 has high number of young mothers. Transport is a key issue. Also if families have several children. - Comments from Horizons Family Support (Banksia).

### **Quotes from local parents...**

*"It takes 2 buses to get to Long Jetty hospital if you don't have a car. (Long Jetty Health Care Centre)."*

*"We took a mini bus full of kids to the water festival. There is not much here, but if you can get transport to get to other things that's good." (KBT network Bateau Bay Families).*

*"Prams are hard to get onto public transport".*

*"A community bus service would help. Bay Village could have a customer service bus."*

*"I have had to walk home from Mingara Recreation Centre after Little Athletics because there was no bus at that time. The kids were tired after athletics."*

*"Mothers don't have cars at our playgroups and it's hard to go out on an excursion."*

**Results from questionnaires handed out to families living in the Southern Lakes defined by postcode 2261 .**

### **What would you like to change in this area to improve the life for your family?**

- 34 people said transport was an issue (did not specify issue)
- more weekend buses - local services, better transport
- limited transport hard to carry two kids and a double pram onto a bus
- A better transport system, better public transport, bus system is not child and parent friendly, it takes 2 buses to get to Gosford/Wyong, free transport to after school care, expensive, have 2 children under 2 and have to catch the bus to Bay village for shopping and return on bus with groceries.
- sometimes transport especially on weekends/pubic hols, cold weather, raining and muddy.