



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **MEDIA RELEASE: Transport solutions are on their way in Tennant Creek!**

A new community driven project has shown that creative and cost effective solutions are possible for the long standing transport problems that towns like Tennant Creek face.

“No public transport and a limited taxi service, makes getting around Tennant Creek to meet everyday needs pretty tough for many people“, said Jonathan Pilbrow, Senior Policy Officer, with the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS).

“For some people in wheelchairs, the only way for them to get around is to push themselves, and some people have to push a shopping trolley for a couple of kilometres to get home from the supermarket. Other people have difficulty getting to and from the 2 am Greyhound bus which means some people miss medical appointments in Alice Springs. This particularly impacts on older people and people on lower incomes“, said Mr Pilbrow.

To address these issues NTCOSS recently auspiced a Community Transport Project to look at ways to improve transport options and access to services for people in the town. David Denmark from Transport Planning and Management conducted the study which was funded by NTCOSS, local agencies, the NT Government and the Myer Foundation.

The Project Report, and resulting actions, shows that creative community transport solutions are possible to address the ‘mobility gap’ which exists for many people. Community transport options exist across the country. They are often run by not for profit services which help people to access medical, shopping and social services – where they have no other means of transport.

Some of the recommendations from the report have already been initiated including the formation of a non-profit transport agency, Tennant Creek Transport. *“The purpose of the group is to coordinate transport in the region, to encourage the establishment of new transport services and to facilitate the sharing of community owned vehicles in the town”*. The formation of Tennant Creek Transport will help to continue the work of the transport project into the future.

“Transport resources are available and we need to find ways to use them to provide better options for people who need it the most“, said David Denmark, Deputy Convenor, Tennant Creek Transport. “Affordable and accessible transport services are essential for disadvantaged Territorians to obtain essential services, seek and hold employment, access health services and simply do their weekly shopping.”

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