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**Media Release**

## **Volunteers needed for Strathalbyn transport service**

Without rideshare or local taxi services, limited bus services, and other community transport operators running at capacity, getting around for those living in Strathalbyn can be challenging, particularly for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Hills Community Transport, administered by Mt Barker Council, has been providing community transport to people in Strathalbyn for many years. The service offers people who have no other transport options a way to get to appointments locally or in the city. A shopping shuttle operating twice a month also gives eligible residents the chance to access major shopping precincts not available in Strathalbyn.

Due to the limitations in the availability of transport services in Strathalbyn, Hills Community Transport has identified an unmet need and is expanding its service by permanently locating a vehicle in the town to boost the availability for local intra-town transport as well as transport to appointments further afield.

Mt Barker Council's Community Programs Team Leader, Marisa Ellks said: "We have been hearing that there is a real need for more community transport in the Strathalbyn area."

"We felt it was important to get the funding and resources to address this shortfall so that those who rely on community transport services are not at a disadvantage," Ms Ellks said.

To support the expanded service in Strathalbyn, the council is seeking volunteer drivers from the local area.

"Volunteers play a vital role in helping deliver community programs and local drivers volunteering to be a part of this service will make a huge difference to the accessibility of transportation in Strathalbyn," Ms Ellks said.

Hills Community Transport is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, the South Australian Department of Human Services, Mt Barker, Adelaide Hills, and Alexandrina Councils. Eligibility criteria apply for using the services, and nominal fares are charged.

People interested in becoming a Hills Community Transport volunteer driver in Strathalbyn or have transportation needs can contact Marisa Ellks on 8391 7246.

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