



### **Annual General Meeting Chair Report 2018-19**

This year has been a time of creating a stronger communication strategy for members, with the aim to retain and possibly increase membership to ensure SActa's sustainability. The strategy included consistent newsletters, planning for the biennial 2019 SActa Forum in October, updating Facebook prior to the Forum and recreating a new fresh SActa website plus the ongoing reporting and attendance at Australian Community Transport Association (ACTA) meetings.

The committee continues to have representatives who support SActa as part of their current work or volunteer roles. Their support and input to this peak and their supportive organisations is greatly appreciated, especially the RAA who provides a meeting place for each meeting.

In 2018, SActa was supported by a once-off monetary gift that will be directed to administration support for special projects such as the forum planning. A request for additional state government administration funding was unsuccessful this time, so seeking other funding opportunities will be a focus of the future.

Representatives met with the Minister for Transport, Stephan Knoll at the end of November 2018 to keep him abreast of the role community transport plays in the wider transport picture whilst offering a consultancy relationship with government. Consequently Stephan was the main speaker at the Forum and SActa completed a response to the recently released 20 year Infrastructure Discussion paper which is available on the website. [www.sacta.org.au](http://www.sacta.org.au)

The model of SActa incorporates both SA & NT which is quite a task for such a small committee and with only two members in the NT there is quite some work to be completed. A meeting was held in April at ACCSA (Aboriginal Community Care SA) to seek opportunities to meet with NT communities and a meeting at Darwin is being scheduled for ACTA in 2020.

Organisational or individual memberships receive the benefits of membership from the strength and diversity of SActa by:

- Regular media updates keeping the sector informed
- Having the sector's concerns presented to the national peak ACTA via representation and regular reporting
- Responding to government on behalf of the sector and working proactively to support the wider community transport sector
- Biennial SActa Forums for information sharing and networking with subsidised delegates fee for members

SActa was able to engage a Yorke Peninsula Community Transport volunteer who is passionate about creating websites and worked with the committee to create a new look website. After

numerous drafts the final website was made live and presented at the Forum. We had an opportunity to thank Lyle Wallace at the SActa Forum as his support was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who attended the SActa Forum either as a delegate or providing a trade table. A special thank you to RAA & National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation (NATSIC) for their gold sponsorship. Feedback has been very positive about the day and content.

#### **ACTA – Australian Community Transport Association)**

Both Julie and Craig continue representing SActa at the four annual Australian Community Transport Association (ACTA) meetings which is greatly supported by our individual work agencies. These representative roles also include taking various roles on sub committees and focus groups as, like SActa, ACTA has been unable to source any administrative funds for additional support. The chair, Lyndon Stevenson recently attended the SActa Forum presenting the community transport concerns should the aged care reforms follow the NDIS model as currently planned.

ACTA has been a voice challenging the proposed aged care funding model which will imitate the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), ACTA continues to advocate for the need of block funding to ensure transport providers can maintain their fleets and continue providing services. ACTA representatives also attend National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) meetings bringing a transport perspective to this alliance, which advises the Commonwealth on aged care reforms.

#### **STATE FOCUS for ACTA Reports:**

- NDIS rollout is complete. Transport funding has not been reviewed leaving transport subsidies low and clients particularly in regional areas disengaged. A number of transport providers have let their registrations lapse with the impost of very high audit fees. It is estimated that approximately 50% of clients previously receiving a Disability Support Pension have not transitioned to the NDIS.
- The Department of Human Services contracts have been continued for a further 12 months and a new community service program is being considered. It is hoped that the gaps from the NDIS rollout will be considered within this new service model and SActa has sought opportunities to be involved in future planning. Service providers are seeing high requests from clients under 65yo that have not been able to secure an NDIS package, with some organisations having to stop intake due to the demand and limited funding.
- Two community passenger networks have been forced to tender as the local government auspices have withdrawn their support. Both contracts have been successfully tendered and remain providing services within those regional areas of Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend.
- All providers are being impacted by the increased administrative demands that the Commonwealth Government and preparing for the new standards have created, pushing additional administrative costs for all providers. The grandfathered client report is an example of increased demand on administrative time.

- Concerns continue about the current CHSP transport model which does not recognise variations in distance or the additional support that is given from service providers. It is expected that ACTA will have an opportunity to seek change in this area in the future.
- As many aged clients are on long waiting lists for aged care packages, CHSP funding continues to fill gaps in the interim. Concerns continue re the lack of block funding beyond 2022 especially for community transport providers who will be challenged attempting to keep a fleet in operation.

**SActa Committee:**

**Chair** – Julie Mason (YP Community Transport Inc)

**Secretary** – Marisa Ellks (Mount Barker District Council)

**Treasurer** - Phil Tomley COTA

**Committee:** Craig Frost (Red Cross), Pedro Ezcurra (RAA), Sidique Bah (Multicultural Communities Council of SA), Samantha Herbert (City of Charles Sturt), Susanna Lawton (City of Tea Tree Gully).