



DENMARK COMMUNITY BUS  
INITIATIVE

# Driving Connection

Presented by the Denmark Community Resource  
Centre



# The Journey Begins



Since launching in December 2024, the Denmark Community Bus has been helping locals stay connected. It offers reliable, wheelchair accessible transport for people who would otherwise struggle to get around.

What started as a simple idea to fill a gap in local transport has quickly become a lifeline thanks to community spirit, partnerships, and a shared commitment to inclusion.

Many residents in Denmark face a simple but serious problem: getting around. Seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and those living outside town often struggle to reach shops, medical appointments, and social activities.

The Denmark CRC partnered with the Denmark Community Foundation to ask: How can we make sure no one in our community is left behind?

The answer: a community bus wheelchair accessible, volunteer driven, and inclusive for everyone, whether they could pay or not.

# Connecting Community



The Denmark Community Bus serves as a lifeline for residents, promoting inclusivity across various demographics.

After months of planning, fundraising, and sourcing the right vehicle, the Community Bus Pilot Program officially launched on 13 December 2024. The bus operates every Wednesday and Friday, providing accessible transport around Denmark and into Albany.

From the first trip, the response was overwhelming. Residents expressed relief and gratitude for newfound independence, local groups booked outings, and volunteers stepped up to help.

“It wasn’t just a bus it was a vehicle of connection, opportunity, and inclusion.”

# Kathleen's Story: The Bus Changes Everything



Kathleen lives alone and has severe Multiple Sclerosis, relying on an electric wheelchair. Her husband, John, moved into Blue Wren Lodge in 2024 after being diagnosed with dementia.

Without the bus, Kathleen had no way to visit John regularly. Public transport doesn't accommodate wheelchair users, and taxis from Albany were expensive and often unavailable.

Thanks to the Community Bus, volunteers trained in wheelchair restraints now transport Kathleen twice a week. They also take her to dentist and hearing appointments.

“For months I couldn't see my husband in person. Now we spend time together reading, reminiscing, and enjoying the small things. The bus has changed everything.” — Kathleen

# John's Story – Volunteer Driver



John volunteers as a driver for the Community Bus. For him, it's about more than just driving.

“I've lived in Denmark for over twenty years. I know how difficult it can be for some people to get around. Volunteering is my way of giving back.” — John

Every trip is an opportunity to hear passengers' stories, share a laugh, and make a difference. Volunteers like John are the backbone of the service.

# Margaret's Journey

Margaret, a long-time Denmark resident, wasn't sure the bus would be for her. But after missing appointments and social catch-ups, she decided to try it.

Now, every Wednesday morning, she waits with a smile as the familiar community bus pulls up.

“It's more than a lift. It's company, independence, and knowing someone cares.” — Margaret



# Achievements & Challenges



## Achievements:

- Improved access for residents without other options
- Increased community participation
- Strengthened partnerships
- Created meaningful volunteer opportunities

## Challenges:

- Coordinating volunteer schedules
- Balancing affordability with sustainability
- Encouraging community awareness

# Looking Ahead

The Denmark Community Bus has proven its value, but the journey is just beginning. Plans include expanding routes, increasing service days, and recruiting more volunteers.

Every kilometer travelled is a reminder of what's possible when a community comes together with kindness, creativity, and determination.



# Community Challenges



## Seniors

Many seniors struggle to reach essential services, limiting their independence and social interactions.

## Youth

Youth often face transportation barriers, hindering access to education and recreational opportunities.

## Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities encounter significant transport challenges, impacting their ability to engage with the community.



# Powered by Partnership

The bus didn't start with a vehicle — it started with a shared idea: no one in Denmark should be left behind because of transport barriers. The CRC approached the Denmark Community Foundation, and together they sourced a wheelchair-accessible van, recruited volunteers, and launched the pilot program.

“The Foundation’s support was the key that started the engine. Their belief in the project and in what it means for community wellbeing made this service possible.”

— Denmark Community Resource Team

# Delivering our social mission

Building independent income improves the autonomy, agility and resilience of Community Resource Centres, reducing reliance on short-term funding and enabling a more flexible response to local priorities.

At Denmark Community Resource Centre, income from facility hire, sales and services is reinvested into our social mission—supporting community-led initiatives like the Denmark Community Bus.



# Call to Action

Want to get involved or take a ride?

- Volunteer as a driver or helper
- Book the bus for your next community outing
- Spread the word and support this lifeline service

**Contact us:**

**9848 2842 or**

**reception@denmarkcrc.com.au**

**Visit our page - [denmarkcrc.com.au](http://denmarkcrc.com.au)**

