

Understanding the Role of Transport in Improving Social Inclusion: Moving Forward

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Topics for discussion

- Understanding the nature of transport disadvantage
- Key concepts regarding social inclusion and transport disadvantage
- Triggers leading to transport disadvantage
- Community members at greater risk of transport disadvantage
- The compounding factors leading to transport disadvantage
- Addressing Transport Disadvantage
- A case study: responding to the ageing population

Understanding the nature of disadvantage

Disadvantage can be viewed as the absence (or reduced capacity) of one or more capabilities to achieve greater inclusion in society.

Social exclusion refers to when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked and mutually reinforcing problems, which inhibit an individuals or a groups ability to fully participate within their community.

No one level of government, department or jurisdiction, has the monopoly for addressing social exclusion.

Key Concepts:

- **SOCIAL INCLUSION:** The ability for community members to have access to and participate in key activities such as employment, education, sport, recreation or social options, or shopping and health related services for the benefit of their individual wellbeing and social connectedness.
- **Community members' level of social inclusion can be assessed through three complementary factors:**
 - **Activity accessibility:** the ease with which an individual can participate in desired activities
 - **Activity availability:** the opportunities afforded to an individual
 - **Community connection:** the degree to which an individual feels valued by, and connected to, their community

Key Concepts (continued)

- **TRANSPORT DISADVANTAGE:** Is experienced by individuals or community members who have diminished or restricted access to, or are unable to participate in, key activities due to inaccessible or inequitable provision of transport services.
- Activities include employment, education, sport, recreation and social options, or shopping and health related services.
- This inability may be permanent or temporary and can be caused by a range of triggers.

TRIGGERS LEADING TO TRANSPORT DISADVANTAGE

- Service Factors
- Individual Factors
- Locational Factors

Community members at greater risk of transport disadvantage

- Community members within the Youth; Aged; Indigenous; Culturally and Linguistically Diverse; People with Disabilities; and Low Income cohorts, have higher rates of social disadvantage than the rest of the population.
- Individuals who are socially disadvantaged, often have a higher risk of being 'transport disadvantaged' which reinforces their social exclusion.

Broad Social Changes contributing to transport disadvantage

- COST
- GEOGRAPHICAL
- DEMOGRAPHIC

Addressing transport disadvantage

- As indicated by the variety in triggers leading to transport disadvantage, a range of responses including: education, health, employment - are required to address transport disadvantage.
- No one level of government, department or jurisdiction, has the monopoly for developing these responses.

A case study

- By briefly considering the impact of an ageing population, we can consider factors relevant to developing policy and program responses.



Current strategies to address this need:

- Supporting older drivers to drive safely for longer
- Supporting older drivers in transition from driving to non-driving
- Making conventional transport more user-friendly for older patrons
- Removing barriers and providing incentives for innovative approaches and niche services

Further Action

- Further research regarding transport disadvantage and the effects on social inclusion is required
- Such research will inform how government can alleviate the triggers
- Evaluation of recent policy and program responses will also inform future responses

Moving Forward

