100 Years TRAVELLERSaid 1916-2016

WELCOME ABOARD

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."
– Nelson Mandela

HOW TO FIND US

FLINDERS STREET STATION
Flinders Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
(Between Platforms 9 & 10 on the concourse level)
Phone (03) 9610 2030
Fax (03) 9614 1249
Email fss@travellersaid.org.au
Mon–Sun 8.00am–8.00pm

SOUTHERN CROSS STATION
99 Spencer Street
Docklands VIC 3000
(Under the Bourke Street Bridge opposite the Luggage Hall)
Phone (03) 9670 2072
Fax (03) 9600 1174
Email scs@travellersaid.org.au
Mon–Sun 6:30am - 9:30pm
Travellers Aid Access Service (TAAS):
Mon–Fri 11am–5pm
Sat–Sun 11am–4pm

SEYMOUR STATION
BUGGY SERVICE
Seymour Station, Railway Street
Seymour VIC 3660
Phone (03) 5799 2965
Email buggy@gettingthere.net.au
Mon–Fri 10.00am–6.30pm

MEDICAL COMPANION SERVICE
Phone 1300 700 399
(48 hours notice required)

CITY VILLAGE (ADMINISTRATION OFFICE)
Level 3, 225 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone (03) 9654 2600
Fax (03) 9654 1926
Email info@travellersaid.org.au
Mon–Fri 9.00am–5.00pm

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Getting to school is important

*Since 2004, our **Pathways to Education Program** has provided student travel passes and tickets to many children and young people who are often at risk of completely disengaging with education. A large number of these students attend education in an alternative setting that caters better for their needs, such as community schools or tertiary institutions. These are often located at some distance from where they live.*

Some also come from families or situations that are extremely challenging and financially difficult. By providing this service, we make sure they can get to school or college regularly and keep up with their studies.

Your support for this program makes a real and tangible difference to the lives of the students. Being able to finish school provides these young people with opportunities they would not otherwise have and, in turn, the potential to change their lives and the world around them.

Flinders Street Station

Look out for our wraps at Travellers Aid at the stations in celebration of our 100th year.

Designed to inform travellers of the diversity of the work we do – and how long we've been doing it – this visual display is a celebration of 100 years of dedicated service to those who need assistance when travelling.

We are proud of what we do for our service users and we think that the rest of Melbourne should share in that sense of pride!

Pathways to Education

Hassan and Hussein are two young brothers from Somalia. They arrived with their sister as unaccompanied minors in Australia a few years ago after a traumatic time in their home town and in refugee camps.

Hassan and Hussein had been living in a shared house but after they could not afford the rent they were evicted. For more than two months they had been couch surfing with friends and sleeping rough as neither one of them received any income support.

Although their sister supported them financially, she struggled herself as she had two young children.

The brothers understood that their only chance to change their situation was to improve their English and complete The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning thereby increasing their chances of employment and maybe even further study. However they found it incredibly hard to study while not having secure accommodation and facing all the other difficulties including an increasing number of transport fines.

The welfare worker at their college told them about the Pathways to Education program and we were able to support both of them with a student travel pass to take at least one of their worries away while they worked with the welfare worker and a youth service to find suitable accommodation.

The two brothers were very relieved and found that they were able to take another step towards a better future.

Did you know?

In 2014 - 2015

- The split of students receiving support is 32% female and 68% male
- 61% of students assisted are from the age group 16-17 years old
- 70% of students are Anglo-Australian
- 28% come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

How can you help?

The demand for the program remains high and our challenge is to obtain sufficient funds to run the program and continue to help these vulnerable children.

It costs $546 for an annual travel pass for each student.

This allows each student to travel at any time for the entire year, weekday and weekend, whether during school term or holidays, allowing the broadest possible opportunities for getting to class, sports and arts activities, social activities or work placements.

It costs $70 for a monthly travel pass for each student which allows them to travel at any time within the specified month during term.

Being able to travel to school activities beyond the teaching day is important for these students so they can develop relationships and interests that will engage them more in school.

If providing opportunities through education is something you feel passionately about, then this is the program for you. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a global village to raise the children of our future. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Remember, you can make your gift as a one-off or as a regular monthly or annual donation.

100 Years of Travellers Aid

It is exciting as we draw nearer to the publication of our book documenting the history of Travellers Aid since 1916. We would like to thank all those who have taken the time to send their reflections and stories to us.

In celebration, we would like to invite you to enter our prize draw for your own copy of our 100 Year Aniversary book. To enter, simply complete the tear off strip below and return by 21 August 2016 to:

Travellers Aid, City Village, Level 3, 225 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

TEL _____

EMAIL _____

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH TRAVELLERS AID?

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Medical Companion Service

I don't know how we would manage without the Medical Companion Service. We have to travel down regularly from Kyneton to our appointments in Melbourne – and the volunteers are so wonderful. They make us feel safe.

More than 50,000 regional Victorians travel to Melbourne each year for medical treatment. Many rely on others to drive or accompany them to Melbourne. When assistance is not available, they risk their health by delaying their appointments or not going at all.

Our trained volunteers meet medical travellers and accompany them by public transport to and from their appointment in central Melbourne. We assist people able to travel independently but who are unfamiliar with Melbourne, or feel anxious using public transport alone.

Ron Reupert got in touch with Travellers Aid after hearing about this service through the Access Spot Wangaratta. His wife had a medical appointment to attend in Melbourne, so they arranged to use the companion service.
They were met at the train by two volunteers and driven in the buggy right to the tram stop outside Southern Cross Station. The assistance did not stop there as they were accompanied on the 15 minute journey to the appointment. Waiting an hour for the couple, our volunteers then took them back to the station and on to the train.
Ron says: ***"We are full of praise for Travellers Aid, which has been around for 100 years and we hope will be around for another 100!"***

John lives in Horsham and has low vision plus difficulty in walking. The treatment for his eyes requires regular visits to Melbourne by train.

"During the past four years, I have felt privileged to have received attention from the Travellers Aid's outstanding services in arranging for a medical companion.

The courteous and obliging staff meet the train with their buggy, to transport me to an area where my Volunteer Medical Companion is waiting to welcome me. It is reassuring to have a companion to guide me on the tram, to my specialist ophthalmologist appointment and then to accompany me back to Southern Cross.

Without these trained and caring volunteers providing the medical companion service, I could not safely reach my appointments."

Did you know?
Annually the program provides:

- 400 medical companion services
- An average of 33 per month
- 20 active volunteers contributed over 1200 hours
- 90% of service users travel from regional Victoria
- 45% of service users come from North West Victoria
- 45% of service users come from South East Victoria

How can you help?

The challenge is to ensure funding for the program continues and grows and that all regional communities have access to these unique services.

The Medical Companion Service is a service that can be relied upon, is supportive and an invaluable asset to the community. We are very encouraged by the feedback from the referrals network, non-government agencies, regional health services, refugee support organisations, Melbourne hospitals and service users.

In addition, our partnership with V/Line continues to strengthen and demonstrates TAA's ability to successfully work with non-government funders on a long term basis.

We are working to extend this service further to travellers who are deaf and blind and are partnering with other organisations in Victoria to further this aim.

All donations to this program help us to continue to recruit and train volunteers and provide this unique and invaluable service. Remember you can make a one-off donation or spread your gift over the year by making monthly donations.

For example, a donation of $100 helps us to recruit and train another volunteer – that is $8.30 a month for 12 months.

Trivia Night 14th April 2016

What a great night! With over 220 people attending, there was hot competition for first place with many new faces as well as the 'usual suspects' getting into the spirit of the challenge. Our winning table was Public Transport Victoria who scooped our first prize of a 2.5 hour walk with a drink and personalised Lanes and Arcades group tour kindly donated by Hidden Secret Tours.

Our silent auction and main auction was generously supported by many organisations and individuals and raised over $8,000. Our thanks go to our main prize contributors: Herald Sun, Techware, SEA LIFE Aquarium, The Blues Train, The Windsor Hotel, Gray Line Australia, Global Ballooning Australia, RACV, Glass Plus Gallery and Hidden Secret Tours.

This year's Trivia Night was a resounding success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved. See you next year!

Vale Richard Stone OAM, KHS, KSG

1941-2016

Richard joined the Board of Travellers Aid Australia in 2010 and was a valuable and ardent supporter of our work. His special responsibilities on the Board included being a member of the People and Services Committee and Convenor of the Fundraising Committee. Richard had extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector and TAA benefited from his knowledge and wisdom.

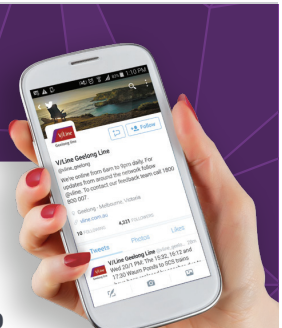
He was also involved as a board member for CatholicCare Melbourne, as a steering committee member for the Victoria Police Mentoring Program and as a clinical ethics committee member at St Vincent's Health.

Richard was a man of great compassion and passion who contributed significantly to our work with guidance, ideas and active involvement.

We will remember him for his big heart and generosity for those around him, and for people and communities in need.

A funeral mass was held for Richard on 2 May at St Michael's Church. Our thoughts are with his wife, Veronica, and their children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Easy ways to get service updates



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