

05/10/2015 moreland.

MORELAND

# Are you driven to help?

A VITAL community service keeping elderly and disabled people socially active and independent desperately needs volunteers to keep its wheels in motion.

LINK Community Transport, a not-for-profit organisation based in Campbellfield, helps frail and elderly people and those with disabilities attend social and recreational activities through its Out and About Program.

It covers nine municipalities, including Moreland, and plans to expand.

The service is on the lookout for volunteer drivers to help its door-to-door transport service meet demand.

Volunteer co-ordinator Briony Hamilton said it was an important program, particularly for those who no longer had family nearby to drive them to shopping centres, senior citizens' clubs, cultural groups and outings.

Ms Hamilton said she needed at least 20 people to donate their time.

"We're starting to really notice a few gaps, which means that we've got a few drivers who are taking on extra days to fill those gaps," she said.

"Generally we tend to attract retirees but we're very, very open to and happy to take on drivers of any background, any age."



Ada Mango at a loved one's grave with volunteer Naomi Hatch.

The organisation, which has a fleet of about 25 vehicles, ranging from sedans to minibuses with wheelchair hoists, has provided much-needed transport since 1995.

Ms Hamilton said volunteering was a good way for people to upskill.

"Our volunteers absolutely adore the work that they're doing," she said. "It's not just being out in the community and helping out clients — it's also, I find, really good for them in terms of forging new

friendships and networking." Ms Hamilton said LINK's work fitted in with Home and Community Care's mission of helping people age independently, rather than prematurely being placed in nursing homes.

"The ageing population is obviously increasing and keeping them in their home is a goal we'd like to achieve."

Training and support is provided to volunteers. For details phone 8358 8000 or email [volunteering@lct.org.au](mailto:volunteering@lct.org.au)



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