

FAWKNER

Veteran under his wing

Call for more volunteers for program

Tiffany Korsen

FAWKNER man Donald Frankling, 92, spent most of his life serving others in the air force.

But now it's his turn to receive a helping hand.

LINK Community Transport volunteer and fellow RAAF veteran Adrian Heinrich, 71, is helping out Mr Frankling by driving him to the shops and assisting with weekly errands.

Because of their similar histories, Mr Frankling and Mr Heinrich have become best mates and value the program that connected them.

In honour of last week's Veteran's Health Week, Mr Frankling wanted to spread the word about the importance of friendship for the longevity and good mental health of ex-servicemen.

"It means the world to me to have that company," he said.

LINK provides transport for people aged 65 and over in



Adrian Heinrich helps Donald Frankling with his shopping.

the northern and western suburbs, including veterans and the disabled. It relies on volunteers, 18 per cent of whom are also veterans.

LINK spokeswoman Marija Janev said encouraging people to volunteer was important due to Moreland's high number of elderly and disabled people.

Recent ABS data showed 14.9 per cent of people in Moreland were aged 65 or more, compared to 12.9 per cent in greater Melbourne, and 6.2 per cent needed assistance due to disability.

Details: 1300 546 528