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Whittlesea Leader

WHITTLESEA

# Volunteer drivers are organisation's missing link

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, 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 the city of

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

The organisation has a fleet

of about 25 vehicles, ranging from sedans to minibuses with wheelchair hoists, and has been providing much-needed transport since 1985.

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"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."

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

Helpers range in age from 20 to 82 and include students.

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

"Our volunteers absolutely adore the work," she said.



Ada Mango with Link volunteer Naomi Hatch.

"It's not just being out in the community and helping out clients — it's also 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 sending them to nursing homes.

Details: 8338 9000 or email [volunteering@act.org.au](mailto:volunteering@act.org.au)