

Accreditation requirements for Community Passenger Network operators



Community Passenger Networks (CPN) were established to address the transport needs of communities in regional South Australia, particularly those who do not have access to personal or public transport.

Services are available in 15 regions across South Australia - delivering a transport service where no other appropriate services exist.

How are CPNs supported?

CPNs are funded by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Funding covers support for a Coordinator, other administrative staff and operating costs associated with delivering the required services.

DIT also supports CPNs by funding volunteers to be accredited as drivers under the Volunteer Driver Accreditation Program (VDAP). The aim of the VDAP is to ensure that drivers engaged by the CPN meet minimum requirements, such as fitness and propriety. DIT funds the required medical examinations, National Police Clearance Certificate, Working with Children Checks and Driver Assessments.

CPNs are also supported by local agencies within their region, such as local councils and the Australian Red Cross, through the provision of accommodation and vehicles.

Who needs to hold operator accreditation?

CPNs are considered passenger transport services under the *Passenger Transport Act 1994* because passengers pay a fare or contribution for the service.

As a result, organisations providing a CPN need to hold operator accreditation, regardless of whether drivers are volunteers or paid.

Operator accreditation is issued by DIT. DIT may consider waiving fees for operators of a CPN where they are part of a not-for-profit organisation.

Vehicles used for the provision of a CPN require an annual vehicle inspection for roadworthiness.

Community groups or sports clubs are not required to hold accreditation if the vehicle is used for the sole purpose of transporting members of the group or club – even if the cost to maintain or operate the service is funded through membership fees and/or members who are travelling in the vehicle make an additional contribution for fuel or trips.

Accreditation is not required if the vehicle is rented by non-members for a fee without a driver, however, changes to registration and compulsory third-party insurance may be required.

If the vehicle is rented to members or non-members and a driver is provided or paid (for fee or reward) to drive the vehicle, accreditation IS required.

Service providers for profit are not considered community groups and require accreditation in most cases.

Owners of buses should refer to the [Code of Practice for Buses](#) for more information.

Learn more about [operating a passenger transport business and applying for operator accreditation](#).

For enquiries about operator accreditation and vehicle inspections, please email dit.alcenquiries@sa.gov.au

What type of accreditation does a driver need?

A driver needs to hold driver accreditation under the *Passenger Transport Act 1994* if they get paid for driving a passenger transport vehicle.

Volunteer drivers of a CPN, who are unpaid, must apply for the VDAP. The VDAP will assess a person's suitability against medical fitness and criminal history standards.

To apply for (unpaid) volunteer driver accreditation, please email DIT.VDAPEnquiries@sa.gov.au

How to apply for operator accreditation

- Complete the [application for operator accreditation](#) form.
- Submit the form together with a [plan of operation](#) to dit.alconline@sa.gov.au.

All individuals must provide a National Criminal History Check when an application for operator accreditation is lodged. You can obtain this from any provider accredited by the [Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission](#), including online providers.

More information

Visit the website to learn more about [operating a passenger transport business and applying for operator accreditation](#).

If you are unsure about what type of accreditation you might need, please email dit.alcenquiries@sa.gov.au