

# MEDIA RELEASE

12 March 2019

## 2019 NSW Election – Key Election Issues - Access to transport changes lives

Community Industry Group today highlights the impact that not being able to access transport is having on many people's lives.

"Vulnerable and disadvantaged people are missing out on key opportunities and activities that could significantly improve their lives," said Nicky Sloan, CEO of Community Industry Group. "For many people on low incomes, the prospect of owning a motor vehicle is an impossible dream. And for those who do, they are often the oldest and most expensive to keep running. Reliable and responsive public transport options can open opportunity and increase disposable income for people who often have to choose between petrol and food. Or between having a car and having access to services."

Public transport in regional areas falls well short of what is available in metropolitan areas, and Community Industry Group is calling on candidates to commit to measures which will increase affordable and accessible transport options across south east NSW.

Public transport is vital to ensure people on low incomes can access medical services such as doctors, specialists, optometrists and dentists. It also ensures people from smaller towns and villages can have access to a wider range of fresh foods, can shop in more affordable supermarkets, and can enjoy entertainment or sporting opportunities.

"Access to transport can open opportunities for education and employment, which can have significant impacts on the economic futures of people who are unemployed," Ms Sloan said. "It can also enable social opportunities which are important in reducing social isolation and risk of mental health issues."

"Particularly vulnerable are people experiencing domestic and family violence," said Ms Sloan. "Often in regional and remote areas, they are more trapped, more vulnerable and less likely to escape their violent situations."

**Media Contact:** Nicky Sloan, CEO, phone 0407 933 279.

For a short video on this issue [click here](#).

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## **About Community Industry Group**

Community Industry Group (CI Group) is the peak body working for community services and organisations in South East NSW. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice.

The CI Group represents the non-government community services industry and works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region including:

- social housing providers
- homelessness services
- home and community care services
- people with disability
- individuals and families with multiple layers of social and financial disadvantage
- victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- youth work programs
- community health services, including mental health and drug/alcohol services
- community legal centre services
- community development and community capacity building.

Visit our 2019 NSW Election virtual forum, available [here](#) for information and resources. We will be collating questions from our stakeholders and sending them to candidates for comment. Responses will be shared on our website.

We will also be updating our 'Promises Calculator', which will record commitments from candidates and parties, which are relevant to community organisations and their clients. This calculator will remain on our website after the election, and enable our elected representatives to 'tick off' their completed commitments.