

Connect Wangaratta - Community Engagement Report

WORKFORCE MOBILITY PROGRAM – ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Training, Placement and Transport Survey was conducted between September and October 2025 to explore transport-related barriers impacting access to education and training for residents of the Rural City of Wangaratta and surrounding communities.

Purpose:

To understand the challenges faced by young people (16–25), jobseekers, and adult learners in reaching training locations, and to identify potential solutions that align with Council’s role in advocacy and facilitation.

Methodology:

- **Format:** Online survey distributed via Council channels, community networks, and training providers.
- **Responses:** Responses collected from students, parents, training providers, and community members.
- **Questions:** Covered demographics, current training status, travel patterns, transport barriers, preferred support options, and willingness to use ride-share services.
- **Qualitative Input:** Open-ended comments provided additional context on personal experiences and suggestions for improvement.

Key highlights

Majority of respondents are aged
18 and under

51.4% have had training impacted
due to transport barriers

58.8% of respondents travel daily
to training

Feedback points to advocacy for
17yo's to obtain P's

Survey respondents included a mix of students, parents, training providers, and community members.

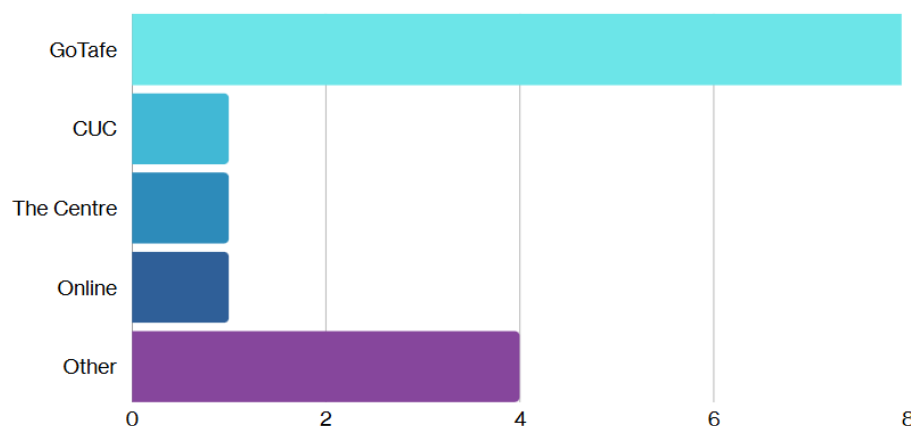
The majority of respondents were aged under 18, this age bracket are not able to get their drivers licence in Victoria, so rely on family members and friends or public transport.

Most respondents live in Wangaratta, however there were also respondents from surrounding towns including the King Valley (Moyhu, Greta & Cheshunt), Eldorado, Glenrowan, Benalla, Myrtleford, and Wodonga, reflecting the regional nature of transport challenges.

What we heard

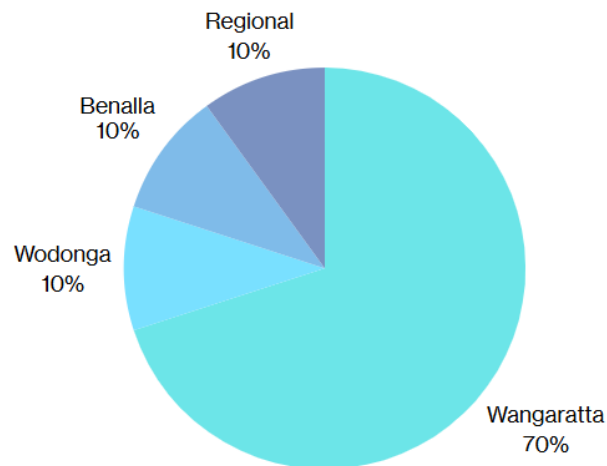
40.5% of respondents are currently enrolled in a training, apprenticeship or higher education program, primarily at GoTafe in Wangaratta, with most requiring daily travel.

Training Provider



Respondents who answered 'other' indicated that they were doing on the job training through GoTafe, at school, or at Wodonga TAFE's Ag School based at the Wangaratta Rovers Clubrooms.

Training Location

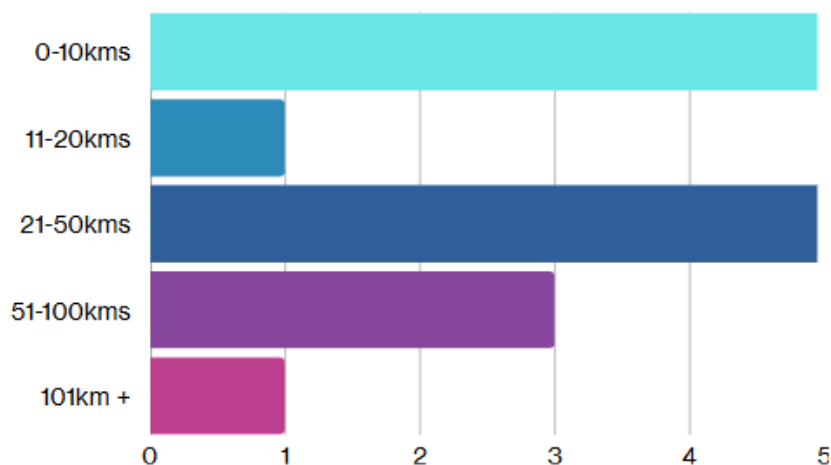


Regional= ag placements etc- Thoona, Moyhu & Bungeet

TRAVEL PATTERNS

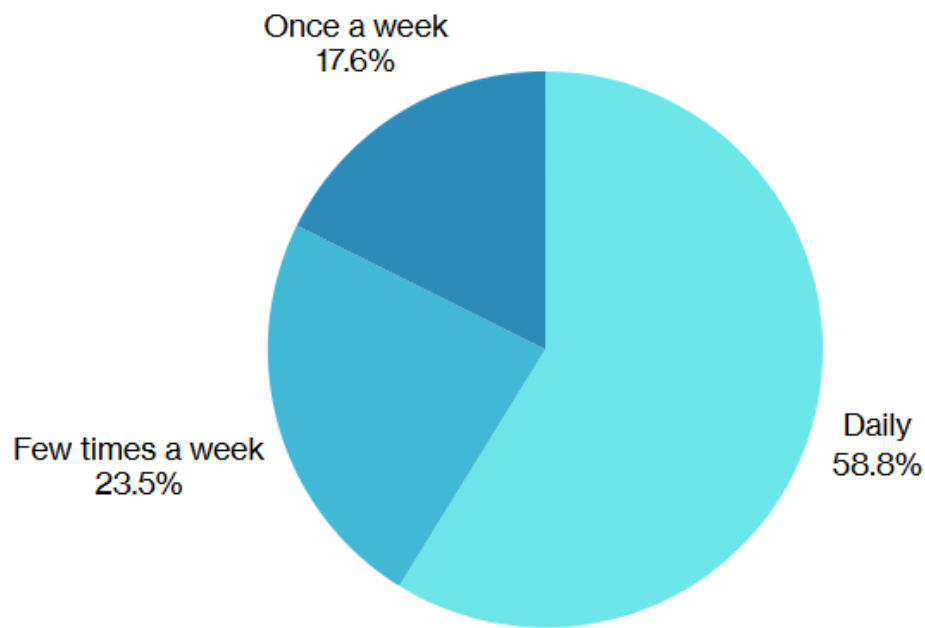
Distance

Distances vary, with 33% traveling both 0-10kms and 21-50 km and 20% traveling 51-100 km one way.



Frequency

Over half need to travel daily to attend training/education, with only 17.6% of respondents only needing to travel once a week for their training.

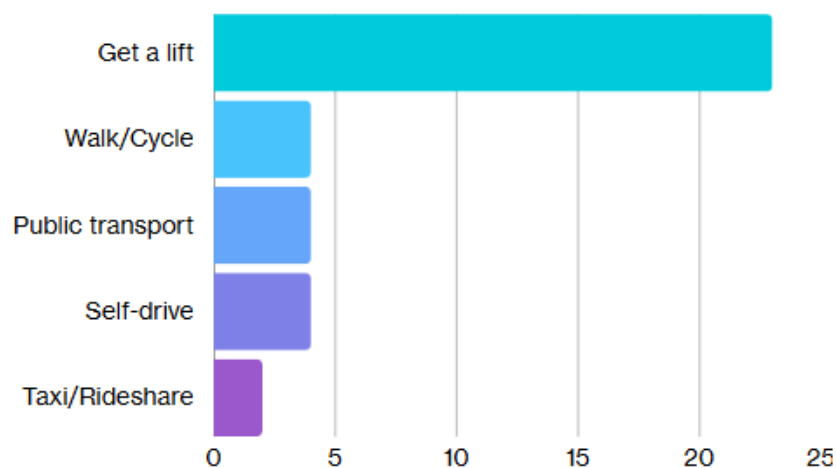


Mode of transport

The main mode of travel (62.2%) is to 'get a lift' which is representative of the larger number of respondents being in the under 18 age group.

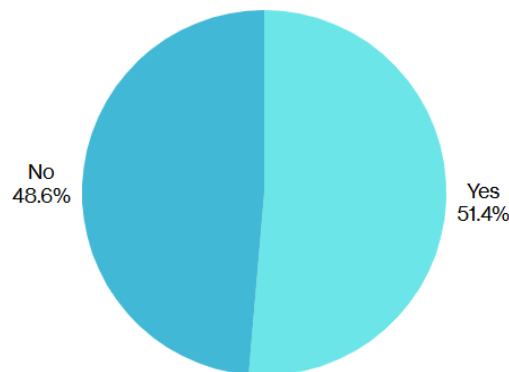
The next largest modes of transport are an even split of self-drive, public transport and walk cycle.

Only 2 respondents indicated that they use a taxi/ride share option to get to their training.



TRANSPORT BARRIERS

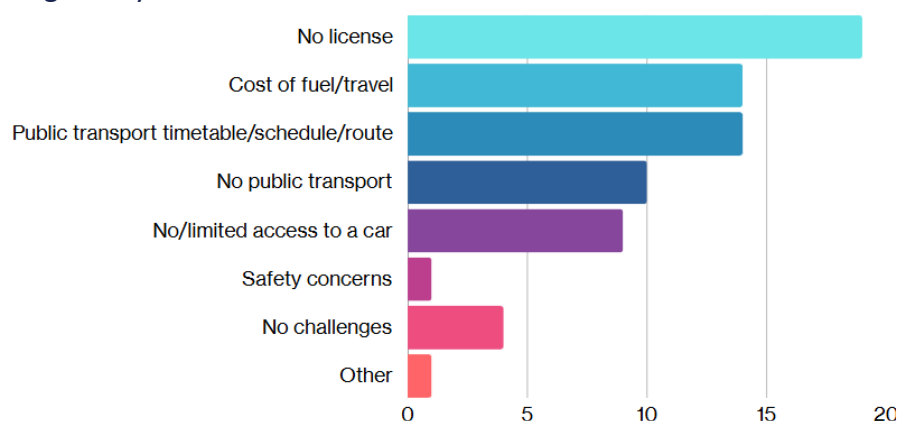
Transport issues significantly impact training access, with 51.4% reporting that they have not enrolled in or have had to skip classes due to lack of transport.



The biggest barrier is not having a license, which can once again be tied to the fact that those under the age of 18 cannot apply for their license in Victoria.

The next biggest challenges identified are the costs of fuel and travel, and the public transport timetable, schedule and route issues.

Respondents also indicated that no public transport causes challenges, comments suggest that the lack of or irregular public transport to our outlying townships such as Glenrowan, King Valley and Eldorado have created a barrier to education.

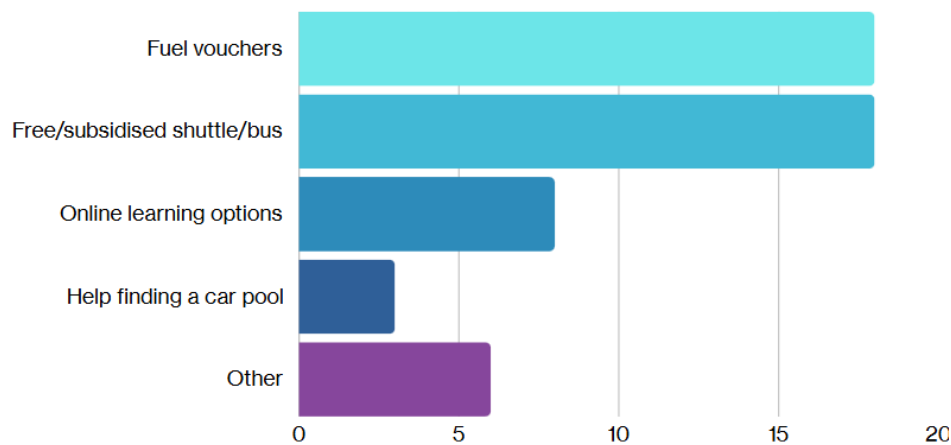


Other related to the respondent being large and not being able to find a car they could fit into.

SUPPORT PREFERENCES

Respondents indicated strong interest in fuel vouchers and free or subsidised shuttle services, followed by online learning options. It should be noted that 67.7% of respondents were aged under 18, who from the 1st of January 2026, will receive all public transport free of charge.

Respondents who chose 'other' suggested that advocating for trainees and apprentices to be able to get their P's at 17 would be helpful, as would advocating for public transport to the outlying townships as mentioned above.



RIDE SHARE INTEREST

37.8% would use a ride-share option, and 48.6% said maybe, indicating potential for carpool initiatives.

However, only 3 respondents indicated in the graph above that help in finding a carpool would be beneficial.

What we are doing

Given Council's role as a local government, recommendations focus on advocacy:

Feedback Item	Action/Info	When	Strategy Change
Insufficient transport	Advocate to Public Transport Victoria (PTV) for improved	Ongoing	Not required

timetable/ route	timetables and routes to serve smaller communities and TAFE campuses.		
Insufficient transport timetable/ route	Share the results with training providers to help them gain deeper insights into their programs and work together on advocating for improved transport services.	Immediately and ongoing	Not required
No license	Advocate the government to decrease the age of learners obtaining their P plates to the age of 17.	Ongoing	Not required
No license	Promote the L2P Program to assist those eligible to obtain their license.	Ongoing	Not required
Carpooling	Promote and support carpooling initiatives through community networks and digital platforms.	Ongoing	Not required
Online learning options	Encourage and facilitate online learning options where feasible.	Ongoing	Not required
Cost of transport	Explore incentives such as fuel vouchers through partnerships or grants.	Ongoing	Not required

Next steps

- Share the results with training providers to help them gain deeper insights into their programs and work together on advocating for improved transport services.
- Explore incentives such as fuel vouchers through partnerships or grants. Advocate the government to decrease the age of learners obtaining their P plates to the age of 17.
- Advocate to Public Transport Victoria (PTV) for improved timetables and routes to serve smaller communities and TAFE campuses.
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