

Walk and Ride to School Program



Encouraging primary school children and their parents/carers to use alternative transport to school.

The Walk-and-Ride to School Program is a voluntary travel behaviour change program that aims to encourage primary school children and their parents/carers to walk, cycle, scoot, skateboard, catch the bus or carpool to school.

Even replacing one car trip a week with a sustainable transport mode can make a difference. All students are pedestrians for some part of their journey to and from school - less cars parking and manoeuvring around the school creates less risk to all students.

Increased physical activity means healthier students and sustainable travel to school creates a healthier planet.

Benefits of the Program

| Students and families | Schools | Community |
|--|---|--|
| Improved health and fitness, often leading to better learning outcomes | Increased road safety around schools with less traffic congestion and illegal parking | Reduced traffic volumes and congestion |
| Improved road safety awareness | Improved air quality at the school | Reduced air and noise pollution |
| Improved environmental knowledge | Students are more active and alert | Opportunities for community links and partnerships |
| More social and family interaction | Improved school community health and well-being | A greater sense of community |

Aim

To increase the proportion of children who commute to school by sustainable transport modes: walk, cycle, scoot, skateboard, catch the bus, carpool or part way using any of these modes.



What is involved?

- Select**
Step 1 Confirm school commitment and establish a working group to oversee the program.

- Plan**
Step 2 Conduct a site assessment and travel survey- assess the school surroundings, traffic congestion, school catchment area, and understand current travel patterns.

- Implement**
Step 3 Develop a Travel Plan and implement a program of activities and events.

- Evaluate**
Step 4 Review results and measure behaviour change.

- Sustain**
Step 5 Update and revise Travel Plan and reinvigorate the Program for the next year.

A dedicated Noosa Council Walk-and-Ride to School Project Officer will take the lead in each of the following steps.

Step 1 - Select

Establishing the roles and responsibilities early in the planning process will help to ensure that the Walk-and-Ride to School Program can be implemented successfully. With the support of the Noosa Council Project Officer, it is hoped that the school will take ownership of the program and be proud of their achievements.

Project Coordinator - Noosa Council Project Officer

- Develop Travel Plan in consultation with working group
- Develop promotional material including newsletter items, posters, maps etc.
- Manage activity budgets
- Chair working group meetings
- Objectively evaluate program activities

Project Sponsor - School Principal

- Nominate a member of staff to be the school champion and point of contact for the Project Coordinator (Noosa Council Project Officer)
- Communicate program details, benefits and expectations to the school staff
- Approve any amendments to school policies or conditions as a result of the School Travel Plan
- Support the coordinator, staff and students in the implementation of activities
- Attend relevant meetings when available.

School Champion – School staff member

- Be the main point of contact in the school for the Walk-and-Ride to School Program
- Inform the Project Coordinator of appropriate school contacts (e.g. tuckshop, ground staff, school newsletter/notices etc.)
- Distribute School Travel Plan communication and promotional materials (e.g. newsletter, parade, direct mail to staff/ students/ parents)
- Collect results from class or school challenges and provide to Project Coordinator

Working Group

Working group members may include:

- Noosa Council Project Officer (Project Coordinator)
- School staff and management (principal, teacher, admin staff, school champion)
- Parent/carer representative
- School student leaders
- Cycling group/clubs

- Community groups/clubs (e.g. Lions Club)
- Local businesses
- Qld State Government (e.g. Police, Road Safety etc.)

Roles include:

- Attend and contribute to Walk-and-Ride to School meetings and focus groups as required (There will be one working group meeting per term).
- Assist and contribute to the development of the School Travel Plan
- Assist in the development, design and delivery of Walk-and-Ride to School activities and events
- Encourage and educate the school community about the Walk-and-Ride to School Program
- Provide feedback on program activities and events

A sub-group of the working group may include a student group comprised of specific Walk-and-Ride to school leaders or existing student leaders.

Roles include:

- Parade announcements regarding upcoming activities and events
- Assist teachers in the distribution and collection of program material
- Assist in the running of activities and events.
- Help in collecting surveys, bike rack counts etc.



Step 2: Plan

Understanding the context of the school environment will help inform suitable activities and events as well as any infrastructure needs. A Noosa Council Officer along with a Road Safety Officer from the Department of Transport and Main Roads will work with the school to conduct a site assessment to:

- Identify safe walking and cycling routes to school
- Identify any road safety concerns
- Review school crossings

The Walk-and-Ride to School Program is primarily a behaviour change program but the site assessment may identify any infrastructure needs to support the program including secure bicycle parking, traffic speeds, missing footpath links etc. Infrastructure requirements will be subject to the Council budget process.

A short survey will need to be conducted before the Program begins in order to understand current travel patterns as well as set goals for the program. A survey will be conducted at the end of the school year to measure the impact of the Walk-and-Ride to School Program in changing travel behaviour.

Step 3: Implement

The Travel Plan will be unique to each school and developed under the guidance of the Walk-and-Ride to School Working Group. The Travel Plan will identify how students currently travel to school, the aims, objectives, activities and targets to bring about travel behaviour change. The Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that the activities are making a difference.

Students and parents/carers will be invited to participate in a variety of activities and events to encourage sustainable travel to and from school.

The School may participate in any of the following:

Activities & Event Days

- National Ride to School Day (Fri 23 March 2018)
- Bike Week (30 April – 4 May 2018)
- National Walk to School Day (Fri 18 May 2018)
- Park & Walk or Ride Day (Minimum one per term)
Parents/carers are encouraged to park 500m-1km away and walk or ride the remaining distance to school. This activity can be supported by a Park & Walk/Ride map or app.
- Active Travel Week (Minimum one per term)
Students are asked how they arrived at school for a whole week each term. This can also be promoted as an inter-class challenge. This can be calculated by students placing a sticker on the active travel week wall chart or as a hands-up at student roll call.
- Active Travel Passport
Students receive a stamp from their class teacher in their "passport" every time they walk, cycle, scoot, skate or catch public transport to school. A small prize is awarded after 20, 40, 60 stamps etc.

Training and Skill Development

- Cycle Skills – All Year 4 students undertake a 1-hour practical cycle skills course held on the School oval on basic bike handling skills and safe practices for riding.
- Road Safety Matters – a curriculum based road safety program
- School Bus orientation - local operator BusLink to provide information to parents and students on school routes, bus passes, behaviour management etc.

Education, Information and prizes

- Park & Walk/Ride Map
- Regular newsletter items
- Assistance in preparing grant applications e.g Dept. Transport & Main Roads - Community Road Safety Grants
- Parade announcements
- Prep/new student information pack
- Small incentives/prizes
 - * Stickers
 - * Pencils
 - * Coloured pencils
 - * Pens
 - * Paper notepads
 - * Class Trophy
 - * School tuckshop
 - * Bookshop voucher
 - * Noosa Cinema tickets
- Online resources

Step 4: Evaluate

Program activities and events will be evaluated through a variety of methods including but not limited to surveys, participation rates, traffic counts, bike/scooter/skateboard counts and anecdotal evidence.

Step 5: Sustain

The Travel Plan will be reviewed annually to reflect completed, ongoing and new actions. The Plan will include lessons learned from previous activities and events. It is also an opportunity to revisit the aim and program goals as well as review roles and responsibilities of the working group.

More Information

For more information or to join the program email mail@noosa.qld.gov.au or call Noosa Council on 5329 6500.

