Project aims

The Community Safe Driving and Accident First Aid Training Project aims to decrease the potential of a serious road crash by better informing and educating older drivers and pedestrians who are nearby when an incident occurs. The loss of life can be prevented and some people may experience a better recovery after a crash if there is a confident first aid responder on the scene.

All drivers and pedestrians need to increase their awareness of first aid principles so they feel confident to act decisively where possible. By providing dedicated training on safe driving and walking for seniors, an important target group is reached.

Implementation

The project involved a series of tailored training sessions designed to build the knowledge and know-how of older drivers and pedestrians in the St George area of Sydney. Two CPR sessions and a Senior’s Pedestrian Safety Group were conducted with an average of 20 people attending the first aid sessions and 45 attending the Pedestrian Safety group. Each session was two hours with a 30-minute break/social period in the middle for refreshments.

Representation of older drivers will grow rapidly over the next four years (2019-2023) with the population aged 85 years and over projected to increase by 167 per cent.
A well-positioned local community hall was used and external specialist trainers were hired to ensure the best information and advice was provided. The invitation was promoted extensively across the community via social media, flyers and news outlets.

**Project outcomes**

The project was positively received with participants reporting their confidence had increased, particularly after the first aid classes. Most were scared to use a defibrillator or attempt CPR before the training but participants left feeling very confident they could conduct CPR if needed.

**Next steps**

The response to the project and its outcomes highlighted that educating and informing seniors can be a positive step in reducing the impact of road crashes. This model will be further developed in the future.

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The NSW Government's Community Road Safety Grants Program is helping to move communities across the state towards zero road trauma by providing financial support to community groups to run local projects that increase road safety awareness and support safer road use.

**For more information on the next round of grants see**

roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/aboutthecentre/communitygrants