# Seniors on Public Transport

Bus & Coach Association SA

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*Australian Population and Migration Centre*
*University of Adelaide*

Sponsored by BCI

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE DETAIL

*Gold Partners*

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# More than A to B: The role of free public transport in enabling community connectedness


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**Funded by Illawarra Retirement Trust**

**Partners: Office for the Ageing, SA & Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, SA**

# Background

Synergy
WARM UP
WITH TODAYS
SOUP
CARROT,
CELERY & LEEK
TOASTED DAMPER
ROLL 8:50

# Methodology

- OFTA survey data (n= 1,358)
- DPTI ‘Seniors Card’ travel data
- Participant travel diaries (n= 66)

# Survey Respondent Age in Categories

| Age | Number | % |
|---|---|---|
| 50-59 | 2232 | 62.2 |
| 60-69 | 669 | 18.6 |
| 70-79 | 300 | 8.4 |
| 80+ | 389 | 10.8 |
| Total respondents aged 60+ | 1358 | 37.8 |
| Grand total survey respondents | 3590 | 100.0 |

Source: Ageing Plan Survey 2013

# Survey Respondent Demographics

Male 542 (39.9%)

Female 816 (60.1%)

Partnered 788 (58%)

Alone 570 (42%)

Metro 822 (60.5%)

Non-Metro 443 (32.6%)

Paid Work 525 (38.6%)

Retired/Other 833 (61.3%)

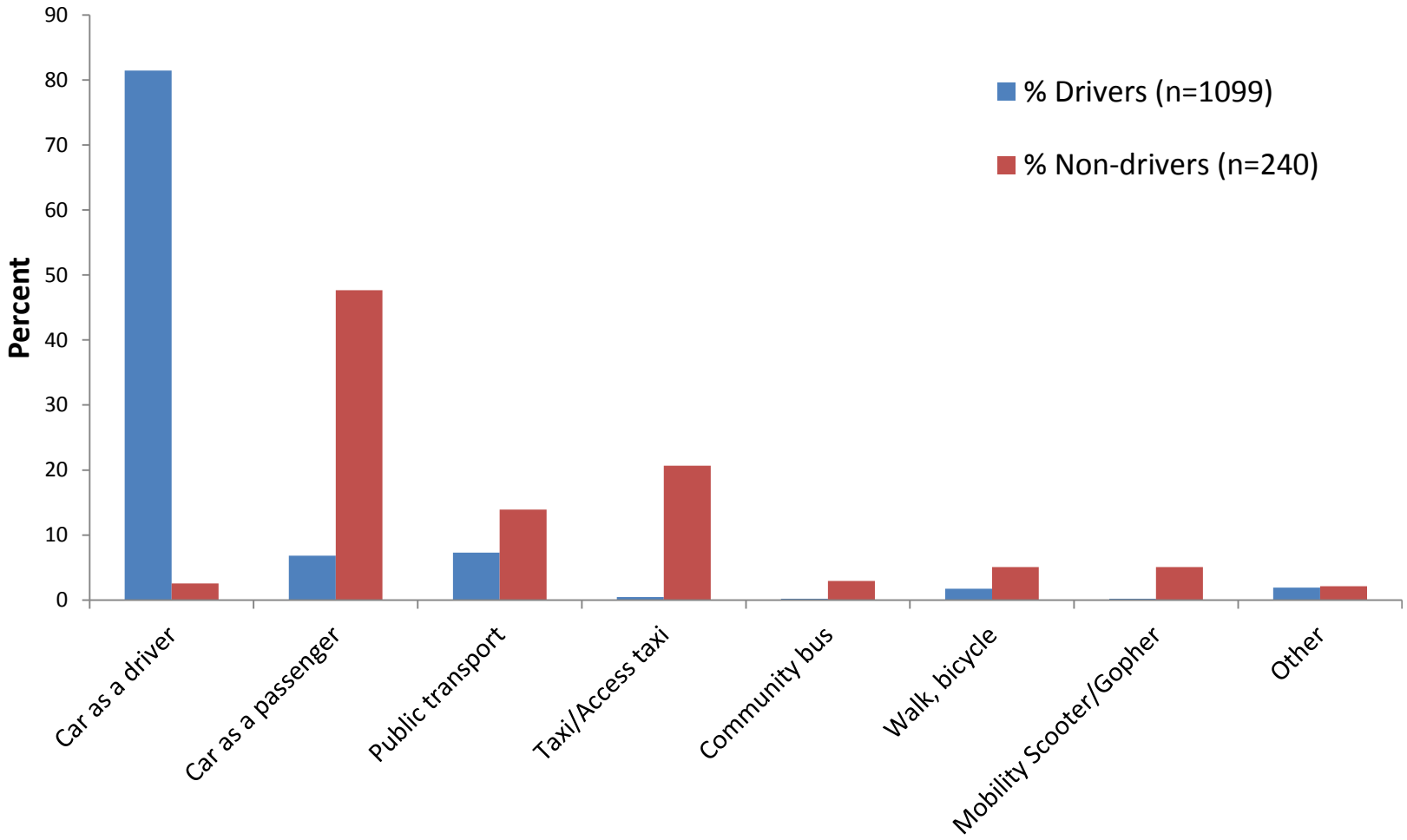
Over 31% had difficulty making ends meet

60.1% rated their health as good or better

Mobility and hearing biggest health issues impacting on daily living

# Main forms of transport

## Main Form of Transport, Drivers and Non-Drivers Aged 60+



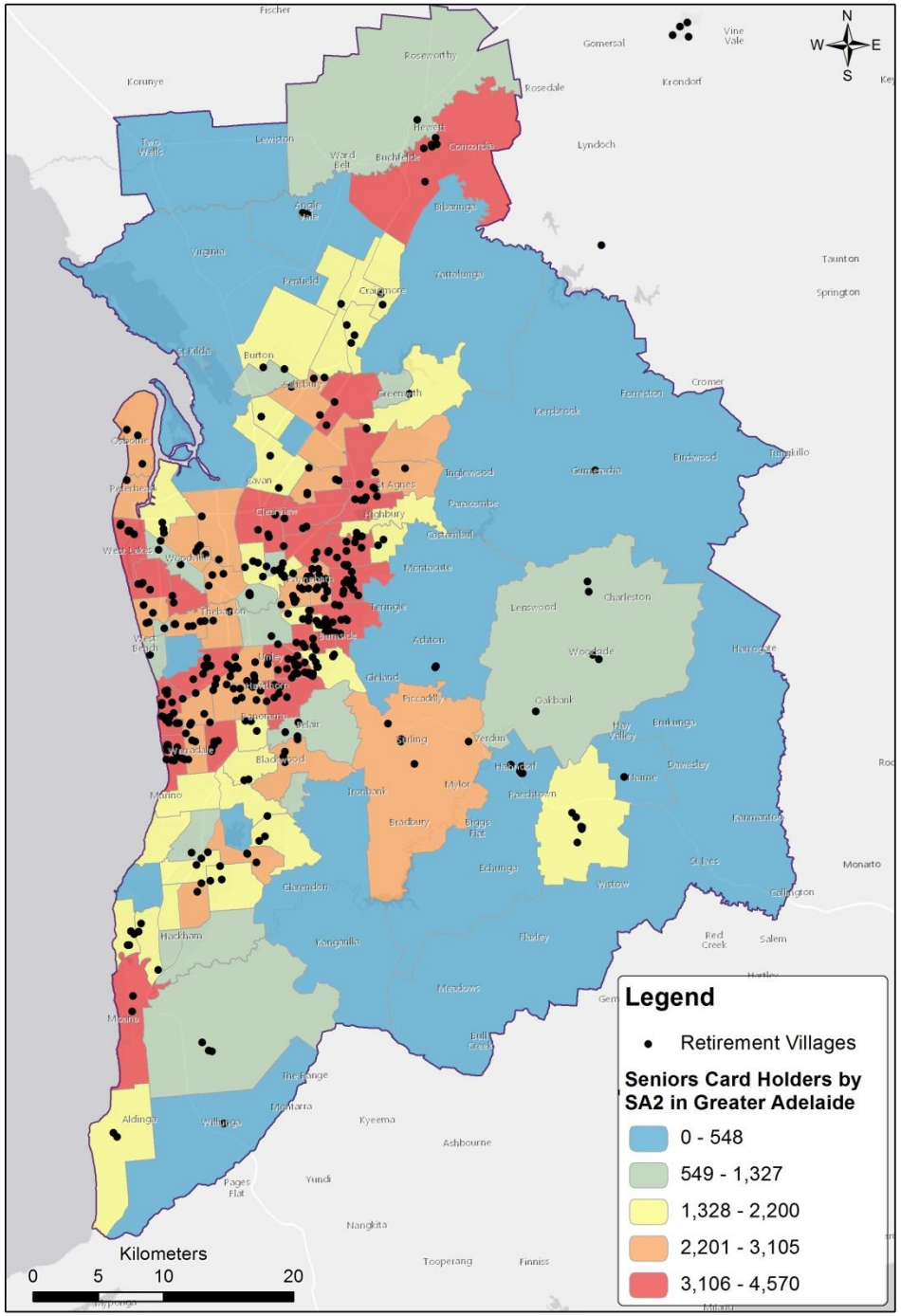
# Survey: Transport

| | % Metro (n=822) | % Non-Metro (n=443) |
|---|---|---|
| **DRIVERS** | | |
| Car as a driver | 78.7 | 87.7 |
| Public transport | 10.4 | 1.4 |
| Walk, bicycle | 2.2 | 0.9 |
| **NON DRIVERS** | | |
| Car as a passenger | 46.9 | 51.8 |
| Public transport | 20.0 | 4.7 |
| Walk, cycle | 6.2 | 3.5 |

# Barriers to Public Transport Access: Metro and Non-Metro Dwelling Survey Respondents Aged 60+ who *do not* use Public Transport

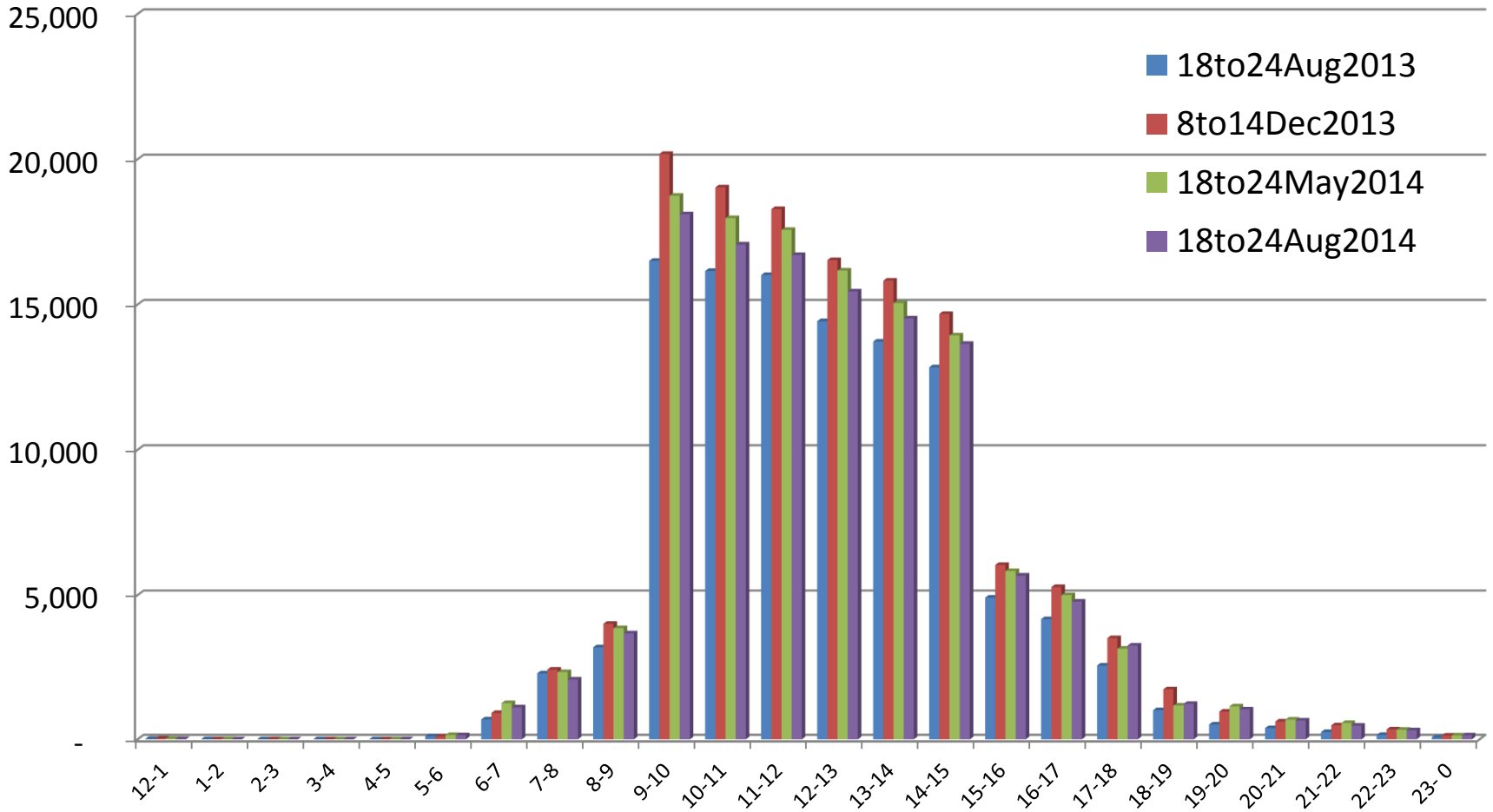
| | Metro | Non-metro |
|---|---|---|
| More convenient to drive | 426 | 215 |
| Time consuming | 286 | 88 |
| Infrequent/inconvenient service | 215 | 119 |
| Routes don't go where I want to go | 204 | 113 |
| Physically too difficult | 123 | 66 |
| Weather | 119 | 48 |
| Safety | 102 | 27 |
| Bus, train, tram stop too far | 98 | 57 |
| Cost | 84 | 31 |
| No public transport at all | 38 | 133 |

# Seniors Card Holders in SA

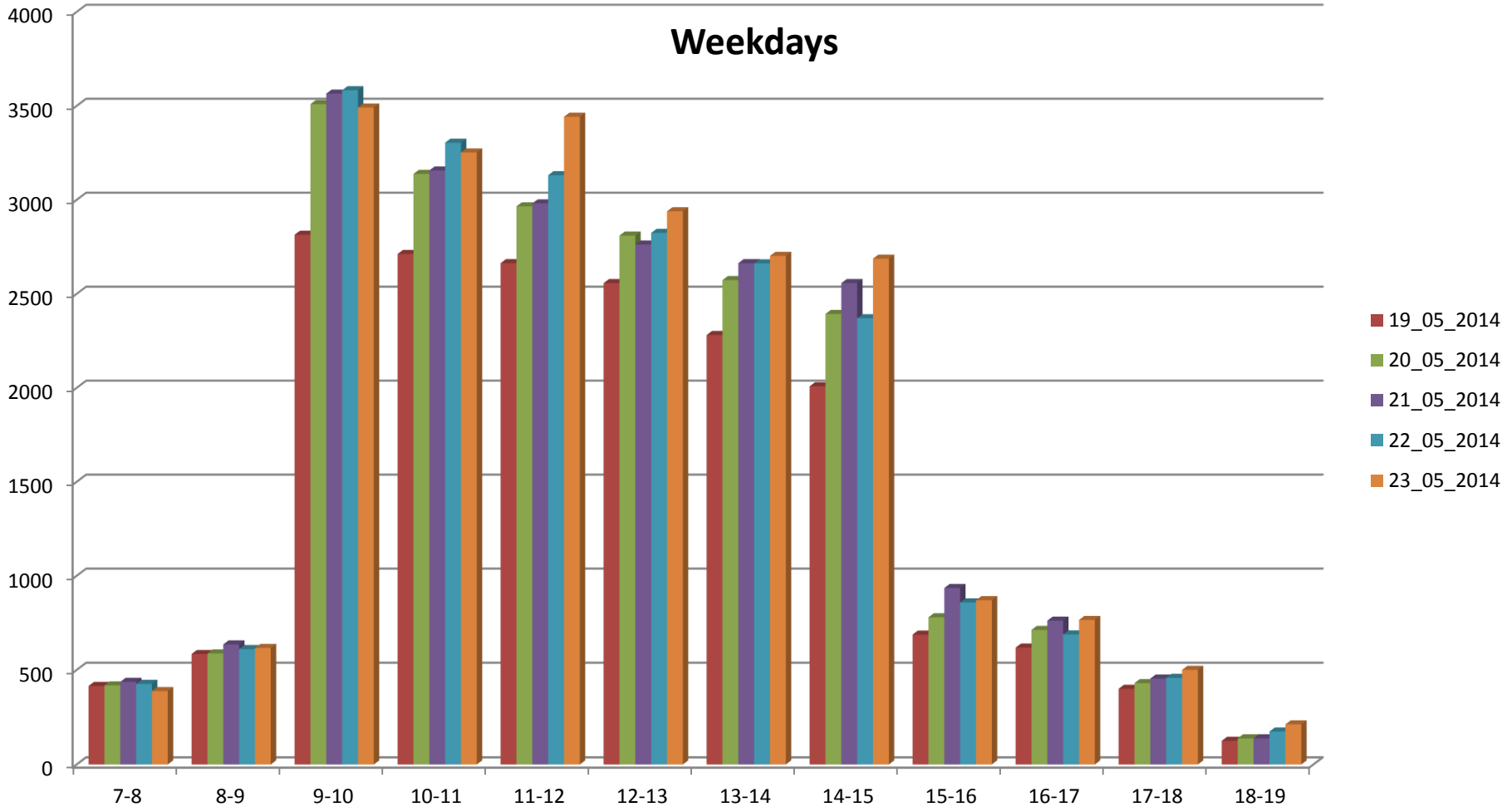



Data: ABS, 2011; ESRI et al., 2015; SA Health, 2014

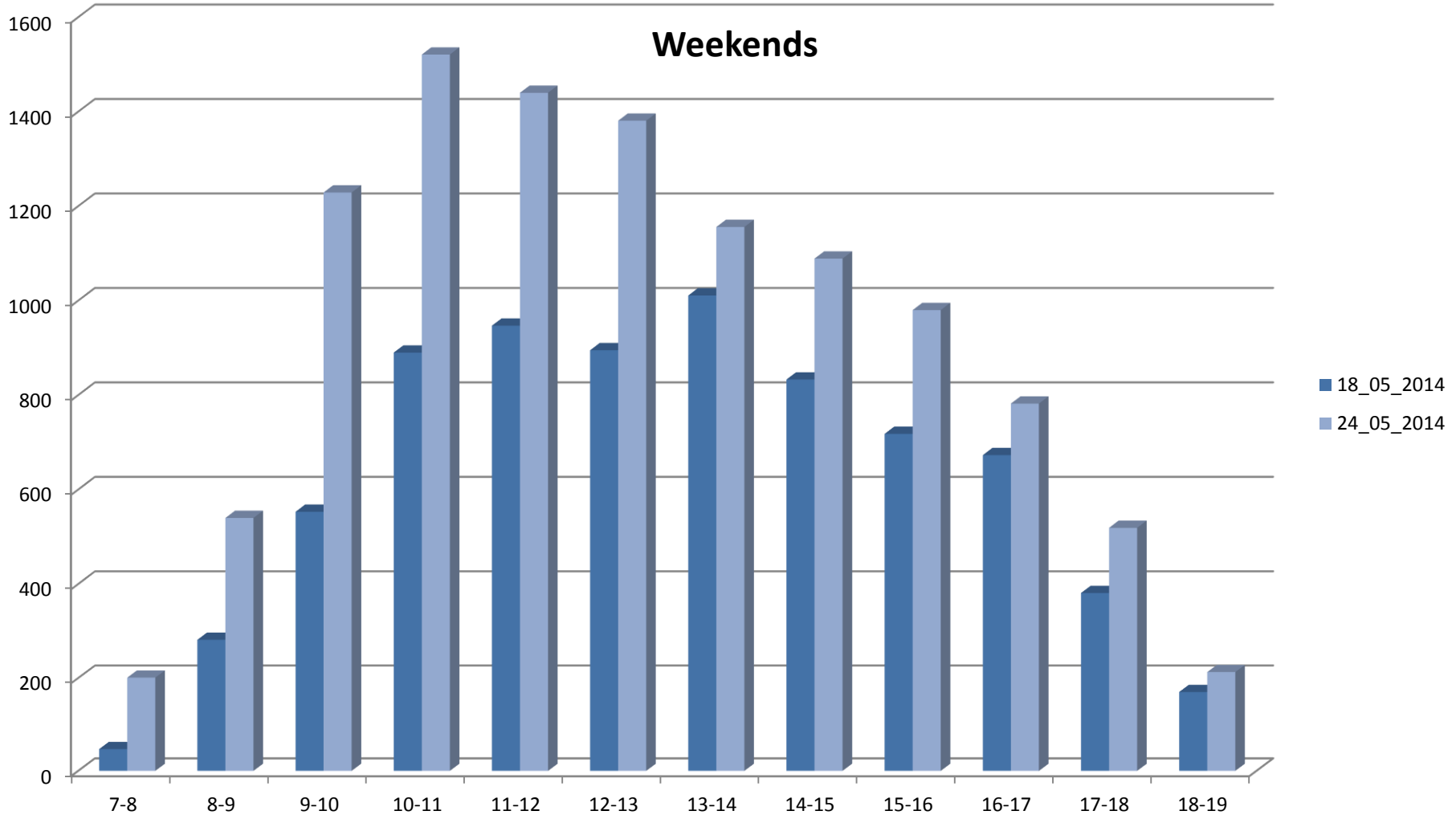
# Seniors Card Use of Public Transport in SA – daily use



# Seniors Card Use of Public Transport in SA - weekdays



# Seniors Card Use of Public Transport in SA - weekends



| | Seniors Card Boardings | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 18 to 24Aug 2013 | 8 to 14 Dec 2013 | 18 to 24 May 2014 | 18 to 24 Aug 2014 | Total | Ave per day | Ave per week |
| **Train (exc Adel Railway Station)** | 8,357 | 14,524 | 16,685 | 16,414 | 55,980 | 1,999.29 | 13,995.00 |
| **Train ( Adel Railway Station only)** | 7151 | 13529 | 13708 | 13793 | 48,181 | 1,720.75 | 12,045.25 |
| **Bus** | 109,978 | 131,095 | 125,064 | 120,058 | 486,195 | 17,364.11 | 121,548.75 |
| **Tram** | 6,000 | 8,236 | 7,665 | 7,011 | 28,912 | 1,032.57 | 7,228.00 |
| **Total** | 131,486 | 167,384 | 163,122 | 157,276 | 619,268 | 22,116.71 | 154,817.00 |

**Average number of senior card trips for all public transport modes per week = 150,000+**

# Participant Travel Diaries

- N= 66
- Total of almost 1,000 travel diary entries, and average of 15 entries per person over a week.
- About 25% of entries related to use of public transport
- Most public transport journeys were to destinations outside of the local community

# Case Study One

- Male, 72 years old, married and still drives
- 13 trips outside the home during the week, 6 by public transport
- 4 trips were related to activities for daily living (shopping, errands, medical etc.)
- 4 were related to localised social activities – walking the dog, volunteering, going to the library
- 3 visiting friends and or family
- 2 were social outings into the city or outside of the local neighbourhood (a lecture at the University and lunch out)

# Case Study Two

- 69 years of age, female,

doesn’t drive and lives alone

- 11  trips outside the home in a week, 5 by PT
- 5 into the city (2 for dance classes, 1 art class, 1 to meet a friend and 1 shopping at the central market) – all by PT
- 3 for activities for daily living in the neighbourhood (all walking)
- 3 localised social/family activities as passenger in a car

# Conclusion

- Public Transport widened social opportunities and community engagement for this group of participants
- PT mostly used as part of a mix of mobility methods – especially for those who don’t drive
- The local neighbourhood is still very important for daily living
- Over  150,000 seniors card holders are using public transport in any one week in Adelaide

Thankyou to our partners:

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and

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