

Way2Go Bike Education Program

A recent survey by Bicycle SA, of almost 500 South Australians has found most parents won't let their children cycle to school because they are too fearful of the safety risks.

Poor road conditions, bad drivers and heavy traffic – not stranger danger – were parents' main concerns.

More than 85 per cent of parents said they wanted their children to receive formal cycle training at school.

Only 20% of secondary students use active transport at least once a week. For children aged 6-12, this increases to 35-40%.

Distance is also considered one of the biggest barriers to walking and cycling to school. In South Australia, research shows a 36% decline in walking and cycling to school between 1985 and 2004.

Way2Go program overview

The Way2Go program wants children, families and communities to be able to choose walking, bike riding and using public transport to get around their local areas and for school journeys.

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'Way2Go Bike Ed' provides bicycle education for primary school students aged 9 - 13 years (Years 4 - 7). It is funded and managed by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI). The aim of the program is to develop students' confidence and competence as safe bike riders for travel to and from school.

More than 5000 students in 60 schools across South Australia participated in the program in 2015.

Through participating in Way2Go Bike Ed students:

- gain knowledge and understanding of the road and traffic environments and relevant road laws
- develop physical and cognitive skills

- develop responsible behaviours, attitudes and decision-making skills for the safe use of bicycles both on and off the road.

Way2Go Bike Ed is valued by schools and the government has made a commitment to double the number of student participants to 8000 per year by June 2018. This is a commitment of well over a half a million dollars each year.

Eligibility to apply

For a school to be eligible for Way2Go Bike Ed it is expected to meet at least one of the following criteria.

- be a Way2Go school
- be working with the Way2Go team to create a school travel plan

- be willing to make a commitment to integrate the Way2Go program into the school programs.

How do I know if my school is a Way2Go school?

Ask school staff in the first instance. You may also look for Way2Go signage near the entry and exit gates of your school. If you are still unsure contact the DPTI.

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What's involved in making a commitment to have the Way2go program at our school?

Express an interest in joining the program and a Way2Go team member will meet with school leadership to discuss what's involved. If the school principal signs an agreement to work with the Way2Go team then your school is eligible to apply.

Our school participated last year are we eligible to participate again?

Schools can register their interest to participate on an annual basis.

If there is more interest than places available DPTI will prioritise funded places according to the last participation date and evidence of the school's focus on creating a cycling culture for travel to and from school.

Other resources available

Way2Go offers a range of tools and resources to encourage safer, greener and more active travel at South Australian primary schools.

Way2Go Kits

A package of educational materials for teaching safer, greener and more active travel in your primary school, comprising three satchels: Early (R-2) Years, Primary (3-5) Years and Middle (6-7) Years; each containing a Teacher resource book, CD, DVD and supporting resources.

Way2Go Home info brochures

A series of brochures that complement the teaching of Way2Go in participating schools. They are designed to take learning into students' homes.

Traffic lights

To support road safety education, operating traffic lights are available for loan. The lights are easy to move, set up and operate. Allow at least 2-3 weeks when organising the loan period, including delivery to your school and return to the warehouse location.

Additional resources

'Cycling and Walking Maps' and 'Cycling and the Law' can be ordered to support your school's teaching program. ■

For more information visit:
<http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/>



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