Safer, greener and more active travel for South Australian primary school children

Way2Go – a program developed by The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure which encourages safer, greener and more active travel for South Australian Primary School Students.
Current travelsmart research indicates that 80% of students who live within a 5km radius of their school are driven to and from school. Recent survey results in our pilot schools certainly supports this statistic. The implications of this statistic are concerning....with increased traffic congestion around schools, safety concerns for students journeys to and from school, reduced health and fitness benefits and harm to the environment. Way2Go aims to reverse this statistic across a 5 year cycle.
The School travel plan is the driving document of Way2Go. Across a 5 year cycle DTEI, Local Councils and Schools will work together to encourage behaviour change towards safer, greener and more active travel for South Australian Primary School children. 5 year goal to provide all schools in South Australia with a primary aged enrolment the opportunity to participate in Way2Go – approx 680 schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Way2Go resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discussion pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CD and DVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Big books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fact sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Focus teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bike Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CARisma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Green Travel Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Home info</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List the variety of resources available through Way2go.
The Way2Go website provides access to online surveys and an online ordering facility for schools to order home info brochures which reinforce the messages of the program with the families.

It also provides curriculum links and access to other online programs including the Green travel Challenge and Carisma.
What is a STP? Developed by the school community – pulls together all information about the school's current situation and what will be done to promote safer, greener and more active travel.

Why STPs? Safety, physical inactivity, car congestion, environment. STPs used interstate and internationally but not using the approach that we are using. DTEI completed some research papers into best practice and as a result we are adopting a holistic approach incorporating education, active travel and infrastructure improvements (only place in the world to combine these 3 elements into a travel plan approach).
School Travel Plans

- Introduction
- Current situation
- Targets
- Education Plan and Active Travel Program

Introduction
Sets the scene for the STP
Brief overview of the school. eg. New arrivals, school gates, bike sheds

Current situation
Baseline surveys – technology to do them online – DTEI to produce report
Gaining information specific to your school – crucial in developing STP
GIS Maps - kids locations, DECS enrolment data

Targets
Setting specific targets based on the schools needs
Safer, greener more active travel – schools can focus on particular interests or needs

Education and Active Travel Plan
Sets out what schools will do over the next five years
Based on the information the school has already, areas of interest and need
AT Plan – developed AT booklet with lots of ideas and activities that can be used.
Eg. Cycle group, carpooling, AT champions, one-off events
School Travel Plans

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Endorsement
- Results
- Annual update

Monitoring and Evaluation
Plans can be changed as it is a 'live' document. Eg. Changes to local geography, survey results
Ongoing survey results
Endorsement
Endorsed by school community – not just focus teacher
Where to from here - Full day training when in your council area
Surveys are accessed by schools online. Parents, teachers and students are surveyed to gather information about current travel modes for school journeys, perceptions and barriers to active travel.
DTEI provide schools with a comprehensive report of the survey data. This information is then included in the School Travel Plan. Generally the results highlight the large number of students who are being driven to school which enables us to focus on the benefits of increasing active travel. Large numbers of cars outside schools during peak times leads to traffic congestion and ultimately safety issues for students. By reducing the number of cars we are increasing the safety of students during their journey to and from school. These statistics help parents to consider their role in increasing the safety of their children.

Way2go is essentially a behaviour change program.
Survey results

Results from the parent surveys indicated that 72% of the time the trip to school was part of a combined journey and listed distance, time and weather as the biggest barriers to choosing more active travel modes for school journeys.

Schools select the information they find most useful. They use it to set goals and targets around safer, greener and more active travel. E.g. they may decide to look at relocating a pick up and drop off zone to a location that encourages some walking as part of the school journey and which reduces traffic congestion outside the school gate during peak times. They may decide to introduce walking and cycling activities into their school program to further encourage active travel. They then develop an education plan and an active travel program which aims to support their goals and targets through a comprehensive education program.
GIS – Where children live

- Maps of student residential addresses taken from enrolment information.
- Permission granted from the Privacy Committee to use this data until 2013.
- The maps are designed to be used during the development of school travel plans.
- They provide a visual reference to where children are travelling from and are useful in deciding on appropriate routes for walking and cycling to school.
- They are also used to assist local government and DTEI determine priority for engineering upgrades.
- Information from the maps will be collated and provided in the survey report.

GIS Maps are provided to schools during planning times to look at where students live in relation to their school. It is also a useful tool for engineers when determining the safest routes for students to travel and to then prioritise where infrastructure improvements are necessary.
Students generally live within 2-10km of their school. You can see at a glance where clusters of student's live and can determine distance from within a 2km radius up to much greater distances. In most cases...
Other relevant information can also be highlighted through these maps such as level crossings, watercourses and bus stops.
School develop their own Education plan which highlights how the teaching resources will be used to support their goals and targets for safer, greener and more active travel. Each education plan is unique and will look different from one school to the next depending on their needs and priorities.
Active travel

- Schools use the information from the survey data and GIS maps to develop an Active travel program which enhances the education plan and reinforces the messages of safer, greener and more active travel.
- Programs including Way2Go Bike Ed can be accessed by schools who identify cycling targets in their school travel plans.

Other programs can be included in the Active travel Program and these can reflect initiatives already active within the school community as well as new programs.

Question- What do you think are the main concerns around schools with regards to road safety? Children or parent perspective? How do you think Active travel can help to address these concerns?
**Way2Go – safer, greener and more active travel**

Tools for monitoring mode shift:
- over a 5 year cycle hands up surveys will be conducted by schools at least twice a year to capture mode shift
- online surveys will be conducted mid way through the cycle and again towards the end of the 5 year cycle
- The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure and local Councils will carry out engineering and infrastructure improvements during the life of the School Travel Plan
- the School Travel Plan remains a living document for the 5 year cycle
- at the end of 5 years the cycle begins again

Schools are encouraged to manage their own school travel plans but can access support from DTEI at any stage. Once the plan is up and running our formal involvement remains in the form of survey reporting and working dinners where success is celebrated, best practise is showcased and the Way2Go momentum continues.
Way2Go Contacts

For any query:
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Or visit
www.dtei.sa.gov.au/Way2Go

Transport that's safer, smarter.

Contact details provided
Way2Go mean less of this...

Less cars on the roads and outside schools during peak times causing safety concerns.
More students using active travel modes not only for their school journeys but eventually leading to lifelong habits.