

ILT Foundation Grant of \$25,000 to CCS Disability Action Southland 20/11/08

ILT FOUNDATION.....CCS DISABILITY ACTION SOUTHLAND TO PURCHASE WHEELCHAIR VAN

Everybody needs a new set of wheels eventually and for CCS Disability Action Southland it's even more important.

The Invercargill-based organisation, formerly Crippled Children's Society, has two wheelchair accessible vans to transport their members with disabilities.

Now the organisation's ageing 1996 van is about to be replaced by a swept-up model, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the ILT Foundation.

The new van will be purpose-built, capable of carrying eight passengers, including two electric wheelchairs at a time. The van's total cost will be about \$58,000 and it should be on the road sometime in the first quarter of next year.

CCS Disability Action southern region funding manager, Lyle Palmer, said confirmation of the ILT Foundation grant was a relief for the Southland organisation, which covers a huge area stretching north to Queenstown, east to Tapanui, as far south as Stewart Island and also out to Te Anau.

"By providing accessible transport it will enhance people with disabilities to get out and about the community," Mr Palmer said.

"Although taxi companies do have wheelchair accessible vans, this one is specifically for our use."

ILT Foundation chairman, Alan Dennis, said having an up-to-date wheelchair accessible van for CCS Disability Action Southland was essential.

"We are always very mindful of trying to provide a good quality of life for everyone in our community," he said.

"This new van should help do that in an important and very appreciated way for the CCS Disability Action Southland members."

Mr Palmer said the new van would be much better equipped with a modern electric hoist system to load what are now bigger, heavier electric wheelchairs.

"We've also changed the focus of the organisation over the last few years," he said.

"Rather than having people just coming into the centre, which they used to do for much of the day, we're now supporting our people a lot more out in the community. So we're using the vans a lot more for transportation to take people to and from different places now. So this new van, thanks especially to the ILT Foundation, will really make a difference to our people and our support workers."

PRESS RELEASE ENDS