



THE BICYCLE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
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Bikes for Refugees: Information sheet

Bikes for Refugees is a small, local, Adelaide-based volunteer scheme which supplies reliable, safe secondhand bikes, at no charge, to refugee families settling in Adelaide. The scheme has been running since 2003, and has recycled around 2000 bikes.

The scheme is run by The Bicycle Institute, SA (BISA), a voluntary not-for-profit community organisation that works to promote cycling. We believe bikes have a role to play in the community, meeting transport needs, providing recreation, and exercise. We work to promote bike use, and to make cycling easier and safer. We focus on people who use bikes for everyday transport, and for recreation.

Aims : The bikes are to help people during their first few months here, with everyday transport needs, and for recreation. They are to help people get started in Adelaide, to help them settle in; or to help with on-going transport needs later.

Who we give bikes to: Refugee families; also, other groups in a similar situation, who might find a bike useful, but may find it hard to get one. We often work with welfare organisations, charities, and State or local government who are working with these communities.

Who can ask us for a bike: We're happy to hear from anyone: Welfare organisations; charities; refugee families themselves; community groups; friends and others offering support; schools..

How to request a bike: please contact the Co-ordinator, Mike Brisco, by phone or email.

Costs: Eligible groups - we supply bikes gratis, ie free of charge. Other people can purchase bikes from us, at very reasonable prices.

What bike owners will need..

Helmet: compulsory on public roads; police can and do stop cyclists, the fine is \$60.

Lock: bike theft is a major problem; a bike left unlocked eg outside a shop *will* be stolen.

Accessories (lights, tools, pump) - owners responsibility.

Bike storage: somewhere safe, dry, ideally indoors, under lock and key.

We get a few accessories donated, but not enough to meet needs. People usually to purchase their own – or by arrangement we can buy the items, and they can reimburse us. Target, K-mart, Big W and bike shops all sell these.

Where we source bikes Most were donated by members of the public, who no longer need them, e.g they got a better bike or a newer one; children out-grew them; they gave up riding.

Types of bikes: Recent donations included: Shogun, Avanti, Giant, Repco, Cyclops, Trek, Huffy, Raleigh, Gemini, Malvern Star. We have bikes for adults, teenagers and children of all ages, mens and ladies, boys and girls. Most adult bikes, are either mountain bikes (solid looking, thick tyres, 15 gears, straight handlebars), or road bikes (10-15 gear , lightweight, narrower tyers, dropped handlebars). We occasionally get Hybrids, and BMX bikes.

Quality of the bikes Bikes are typically 5-10 years old. All have some wear and tear, though condition varies a lot. Adult bikes, were typically bought in bike shops, and perhaps cost \$200-\$400 new. Childrens and teenagers bikes were from there, or from department stores, typically priced maybe \$60-\$150 when new. Most appear to have been bought locally; a few are from interstate and overseas.

Safety: Before handing each bike on, we check it, service it, do any necessary repairs, and take it for a short test ride. The bike will be roadworthy for SA, and of similar standard, to a bike used for a bicycle education session, in school. Documentation for insurance purposes, available on request.

Choosing a bike: People are welcome to visit, and choose a bike and try it out. We're open most Saturday afternoons, 2-4, please phone beforehand to let us know. Alternatively, contact us to place an order, we will pick one out for you.

Time from order to Delivery/collection : Usually 2-4 weeks, but If you need a bike urgently, please let us know.

Delivery arrangements: We will contact you when the bike is ready; you can pick your bike up any time, from Campbelltown. If there is a large consignment of bikes- and you need assistance – please ask. We may be able to drop them off, to you, or to the recipients.

On receipt: The bike may need small adjustments, against damage in transit, and to make sure it fits the owner. These should be straightforward; we are happy to advise. New owners should take time to get used to the bike. They need to ride cautiously and carefully during at least the first few days – to become familiar with how the bike handles; its braking; its controls; and its limitations.

Warranty. If the bike develops a major fault within 2 weeks – please let us know – we will repair the fault if possible; or exchange the bike.

On-going repairs & maintenance:

Usually, the owners responsibility. The bikes should give several months of good service, depending how they are ridden, but all bikes, sooner or later, need maintenance.

Parts and tools are readily available in department stores like K-mart or Target, or at any of Adelaide's 60+ bike shops. (yellow pages under Bicycles).

Punctures: to minimise the problem from these, all wheels have puncture sealant in the inner tubes, which seals most punctures automatically while one is riding. This is a thick liquid that sits inside the inner tube. If the tyre's punctured, air pressure forces the liquid into the hole, and blocks it, so the tyre still stays inflated. The liquid goes by the trade name of 'slime' and is sold in many bike shops. It is harmless, and washes off with water.

Free repair service - western suburbs: Community Bicycle Co-operative workshop, at Plympton Community Centre. Saturdays 9-12; 32 Long Street Plympton – near junction of Anzac Highway and Marion Road; no booking required. Further information – call Mike

Contact & further information

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Address:

13 Mines Road Campbelltown.
8 km NE of Adelaide city centre.
Frequent Buses along Lower North-East road; stop 18 (service 177) or stop 19 (service 174).