

Dr Cranky's – Bikes for kids that need them

Dr Cranky's is a school-based bike recycle program that aims to ensure all kids have access to a working bike. It does this by recycling bikes at school Bicycle Hospitals run by parent volunteers

Dr Cranky's is a registered Australian Charity with DGR Status. In 2019 it won the VicHealth award for *Promoting health through physical activity and sport*.

Dr Cranky says:

Every child needs a bike

With the right bike, all kids can get riding and get physically active. But up to 40% of children at a school do not have access to a bike.

Don't throw it away – donate it or help fix it

Many families have unused or unloved bikes sitting in the shed or backyard at home - Dr Cranky's helps repair them and give them to someone in need at your school.

Connect and build a stronger school community

Dr Cranky's builds self-support and connection within the school. It gives parents and carers a chance to get involved at school by volunteering at the school Bicycle Hospital.



How it started

Dr Cranky's started in 2014 at Flemington Primary School with two Dad's repairing bikes under a tree on Friday mornings and afternoons. See [facebook.com/BicycleHospital/](https://www.facebook.com/BicycleHospital/) and [facebook.com/drcrankys](https://www.facebook.com/drcrankys)

One of the founders of the Bicycle Hospital, Bart Sbeghen, saw the potential for something bigger. He piloted the program in five schools over 2016/17 and showed that it is financially sustainable and gets more children riding. Dr Cranky's now runs in fifteen schools and is looking for more.

How does it work?

- Families with unwanted bikes donate them to the school-based program. Repairs are also done.
- School parent volunteers (and children) fix and check the bikes
- Children needing a bike leave their name, age, and parent contact details at the "Bicycle Hospital"
- These children receive a working bike, lock, and helmet to take home as their own to keep.
- Monetary donations for bikes and repairs cover the cost of spare parts and tools
- Dr Cranky provides the support to help make it happen with a basic tools kit, pump, work stand, spare parts, and training.



Benefits

Dr Cranky's makes your school more sustainable and connected:

- **Builds a stronger school community**
 - a weekly activity to involve parents and children
 - low commitment needed so working or busy parents can get involved before or after school once a week or fortnight
 - children and parents of all ages and backgrounds participating
 - supports sustainability learning at school by giving access to recycling, bicycle mechanics and running a small-scale social enterprise
 - STEM learning and practical application
- **Gets children and families riding more**
 - on average people receiving a bike or repair ride an extra 2.5 times a week. Dr Cranky's generates over 220,000 extra bike rides a year.
 - 80% of non-riders receiving a bike became regular riders.
 - the program supports other active travel initiatives at school such as Ride2School
- **Reduces waste and recycles unwanted bikes**
 - Dr Cranky's has now recycled over 2300 bikes across fifteen schools.
 - most of these bikes have come from within the local school communities



What is needed?

- Support from the school
- A space to run the program and store bikes and equipment. Space in the school's sports shed or bike cage for instance. Initially this can be an undercover space to lock two-three bikes and a locked space to put away the tools, work stand, and pump.
- Promotion of the program through school communications including school newsletter and assembly announcements
- At least two parents willing to coordinate and run the program regularly before and after school. This could be once a week or once a fortnight. Some basic bike mechanic skills helps but is not necessary as we provide training. We are only doing basic repairs that anyone can do.

What does Dr Cranky provide?

Dr Cranky's provides support to run and monitor the program at your school. As part of the BREAKS project we are partnering with VicHealth and local councils to deliver the program at fifteen more schools. The support includes:

- During CoVid restrictions, support for compliant remote drop off and pick up operations
- Up to 10 hours in-person training at your school for volunteers
- In-person support once a week for up to a term at the Bicycle Hospital
- Continued online and phone support plus school visits
- A bicycle repair workshop kit including pump, tool kit, repair stand and spare parts
- Volunteer workers and Public Liability insurance

Do you want a Bicycle Hospital at your school?

Contact Bart Sbeghen at barts@drcrankys.com.au or M 0418 231 686 to talk and meet at your school.