

SHARING CARS



CLAIRE FLANAGAN-SMITH AND IAN MCBURNEY

The idea of shared “communal cars” was launched in Sydney in 2002. Sydneysiders Nic Lowe and Bruce Jeffreys started GoGet after realising that more than 200,000 Europeans now use “pool” cars. GoGet now has over 50 cars in 29 locations in NSW and 7 locations in Victoria and is growing by 300 per cent per year.

Car sharing can replace your car, or your second car, or even give you a “virtual” small business fleet. Cars are stored in “pods” of one to three in a handy location.

GoGet introduced the concept to Melbourne and resident Claire Flanagan Smith, Ian McBurney and their nine month old son Tadgh who are now regular users of it. GoGet says it costs about \$714 a month to run the average family car.

Claire and Ian spend about \$80 a month on the GoGet service and don't have to pay City Link tolls when they use a GoGet car.

Cars are booked online or by phone, pick it up, drop it back, and receive an itemised monthly bill. “When had a car we used it when we really didn't need to”, says Claire who's a sustainability officer with Melbourne City Council. “Now we only use the car when we can't find an alternative way to get there”, said Ian who's an environmental educator.

For more information on GoGet go to www.goget.com.au