



Pupmobile brings dogs on demand

AS is often the case, Seeing Eye Dogs Australia's canine midwife couldn't stay for the official function.

Virginia Scully was out on the road delivering the next prize litter of dogs to assist the vision impaired and was unable to attend the official handover of a custom-fitted 'puppy-mobile' last Wednesday.

Garry and Warren Smith Mazda in Mulgrave supplied the utility, which will make Ms Scully's job easier.

The 'puppy mobile' is fitted

with the essentials for a medical emergency: a whelping box to transport mums in labour, a special cage for puppies and room for medical equipment.

Ms Scully travels 1000 kilometres per week in her own car – an unsuitably cramped hatchback – to visit expectant mother dogs and newborn puppies in Victoria.

The hatch, which had mechanical problems, could barely fit in medical equipment and 1.5-square-metre whelping boxes for mother dogs to "nest" in.

Often, Ms Scully would have to

"borrow and beg" to find a van to carry the essential items.

In medical emergencies, the small car barely had room to transport mum and her puppies.

She said SEDA's puppies were healthier when born at home rather than at a central location, but it meant her job was "incredibly mobile".

"The advent of the new car is such a fantastic thing. I don't like having to drive cars which don't get me there on time.

"From the beginning, we've made certain our dogs were

going to get the very best. This was the one thing we've been lacking so far."

Although many people were curious about her job, Ms Scully didn't understand why.

"I find it bizarre anyone's that interested ... I believe I have the best job in the world. I play with pups all day, but they are pups for a purpose."

SEDA is looking for puppy carers in the Dandenong area. Details: 9381 6400



Welcome arrival: Car dealership manager Andrew Reynolds with Zoom at the puppy-mobile handover. **Picture:** Ted Kioszynski