

Doreen man's tracker for kids

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David Skellern has devised a device to help track lost children and the elderly. The blue tracker is small enough to be carried inconspicuously. Keeping an eye on the kids has taken on a totally new meaning.

Doreen resident David Skellern has developed a locating device for children and elderly people with runaway tendencies. "It's especially for families with Down Syndrome children or elderly parents with Alzheimer's who may be a little adventurous," Mr Skellern said. The device uses GPS tracking systems and can be worn as a necklace, bracelet or even carried inside a teddy bear.

By installing the GoGPSlive program on their personal computer, parents can track their child's exact location on Google Maps within seconds. The program also receives live location updates via satellite signal.

In an emergency a child can push an emergency SOS button on the device that sends a text message to their parent's mobile phone or landline in less than a minute. With a built in microphone and speaker, the device also can be used as a communication tool.

Mr Skellern said an alarm pendant that served a similar purpose was already available, but it required several people armed with antennas to pick up the signal and pinpoint its exact location.

"There's nothing in Australia or New Zealand like this, and we've searched because we didn't want to introduce something that may have been out there already," he said. "People have had something like it for a while for vehicle tracking."

Mr Skellern, a systems developer, first came up with the idea while he was tracking farm machinery for a client. "There was no-one that was specialising in a complete system from software to the tracker, all in one bundle," he said. "And I realised that something like this might be helpful to families."

The initial cost is \$220 for the GPS tracker, and \$30 a month for the program subscription. Mr Skellern said he would welcome community funding to help with the distribution of the GPS locator to families. Although it was designed especially with families and carers in mind, the device also could be attached to animals, vehicles or just about anything else that was mobile. Web: www.gogpslive.com.au