

Licence to Drive (LTD) Partnership

Aim of the Partnership

The lack of a driver's licence within the logistics of the Upper Hunter has been a major stumbling block to young people in gaining access to education, employment and life's experiences.

The actual monetary cost and/or availability of a driving mentor to fulfil the RTA 120hr driving component of the 'Learner's Permit' is virtually impossible in many cases.

Some identifiers of the issue are:-

- TAFE providers in Muswellbrook and Scone have identified the lack of a driver's licence as a leading cause of absenteeism which increases course drop out rate.
- Job Service providers have identified the lack of a P1 licence as a key barrier to work and skill development.
- Major Upper Hunter employment industries have indicated a dismay in the number of apprentices deficient of a driver's licence. The industry's provision of a vehicle to mobilise and support apprentice re-location and/or reassignment is frustrated in that the participant is devoid of a driver's licence.
- Local Aboriginal Community – The lack of a Driver's licence is a pre-requisite to failure in obtaining employment, accessing education and social and community inclusion. In many instances there is no family member with a driver's licence.

The overall lack of access to education, employment and social/community opportunities causes identified youth to fall behind and are at risk of becoming disengaged.

Upper Hunter is again, facing major skills shortages, the recent provision of transport infrastructure creating opportunity for the mining and associated industries to ramp up production to optimum levels, aligned with an ageing workforce has industry greatly concerned. To take advantage of the new employment opportunities young people must be mobile.

Resources

- LTD will be administered from the Muswellbrook PCYC
- BHP MT Arthur provided funding to supply one manual and one automatic vehicle for the project
- BHP Mt Arthur has provided funding for promotion of the project.
- NSW State Govt Better Futures has funded all other administration costs. (Better Fuyures has also expressed desire to continue funding the program dependant upon its success)
- Joblink Plus has funded mentoring workshops to the program's mentors. Mentors from the Joblink Plus (Tamworth) Mentor Driving Program, that has been in operation for 18 months, will mentor the mentors.
- PCYC will provide the 'Road's Realities' program to all participants (mandatory). This program is conducted for 8 hours spread over 2 days and the hours count off the logbook.
- Hunter TAFE (Automotive) has committed to servicing the vehicles, once out of warranty.

Anticipated start May 2011.

100% Knights Partnership has indicated interest in the LTD program in it's endeavour that 100% participating students will acquire required education and skills for employability.

Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre has indicated an interest in the LTD program to ensure a necessary skill for employment.

Partners during planning and development:- * (Remaining during delivery).

- PCYC *
- NSW Police *
- BHP MT Arthur *
- NSW Government *
- Equilaw Solicitors
- Muswellbrook Holden
- Joblink Plus *
- Hunter TAFE *

Brokered by Hunter Valley Youth Express