L2P - learner driver mentor program: extending driver licensing reach to disadvantaged communities

August 2012

keeping victorians connected
2007 onward mandatory minimum 120 hours supervised driving experience for all learner drivers aged under 21 years in Victoria

Concern that a small percentage of the community would struggle to gain the 120 hours

Transport Accident Commission (TAC) committed $9 million to develop and pilot a community program
Objectives of the L2P program

- Reduce crash and injury rate of young novice drivers by ensuring they obtain 120 hours supervised practice
- Increase equity of opportunity for all young Victorians to be safer and obtain a driver’s licence
- Facilitate employment, mobility and social connection
The L2P model

- Community based volunteer mentor supervising driver program
- Importance of community engagement and mentoring in building and sustaining L2P
- Funding model pays for coordination and some operating costs
- Requires in kind, donations and sponsorship as well
- Supervising drivers and learners screened for suitability, supervising drivers trained by VicRoads appointed trainers
Reach

- 55 programs operating across 60 of 78 Victorian LGAs
- 24 metropolitan and 31 rural programs
- Potential for limited expansion
- 2 specialist DHS programs
- One rural indigenous community program
- Several programs with high CALD representation
Implementation maps

L2P Program Implementation - Metropolitan Councils

Key:
- Green: Contracted Councils
- Light Green: Councils with submitted funding applications
- Yellow: Councils preparing applications
- Orange: Councils intending to develop an L2P program
- Black Diamond: DHS program across multiple LGA’s

Note: See separate map for regional councils
Implementation maps

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Note: See separate map for metropolitan councils
Progress

- Capacity 1,800 young people per annum
- At 31 March 2012:
  - 1,050 supervising drivers trained and in cars; 460 waiting to be matched
  - 1,300 learners in cars; 600 waiting to be matched
  - 60,000 hours of driving practice provided in total; 11,000 hours per quarter
  - Approximately 400 young people had gained a probationary licence
Focused L2P programs

- Young people involved in L2P all have disadvantage with regard to GLS access.
- Metropolitan DHS programs include young people with severe long term disadvantage and often offending behaviour.
- Rural Indigenous focused program has strong local roots, is managed by an Elder and is in an organisation that runs complementary programs.
- CALD community represented in all L2P programs, however one metropolitan program focused on CALD young people. Success factors similar to the Indigenous program.
Learnings and evaluation

- Setup
- Operating model
- Training
- Program options
- Evaluation
Conclusions

- There is strong community support for L2P, suggesting a genuine need for the program.
- The partnership approach is a key strength.
- L2P offers a broad range of road safety and social benefits.
- The L2P model fundamentals are transferable across community groups.