

News Release

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Hon Jack Snelling
Minister for Employment, Training
and Further Education
Minister for Science and Information
Economy
Minister for Road Safety
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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FUNDING BOOST FOR STUDENT DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

The State Government has allocated \$740,000 over the next four years to expand a highly successful student driver training program.

Road Safety Minister, Jack Snelling says the funding meets a State Government commitment to expand the Road Awareness and Accident Program (RAAP), so that more than 90 per cent of secondary students can access it every year.

“The program - developed by the Metropolitan Fire Service – targets novice and pre-licensed drivers in our schools, delivering a hard-hitting realistic insight into road crash trauma,” Mr Snelling said.

“It involves firefighters visiting metropolitan and regional schools to conduct a multimedia interactive presentation which explores the causes and consequences of crashes.

“The program enables students to gain an understanding of road trauma through the eyes of the firefighters who undertake road crash rescues and includes a practical demonstration of rescue techniques.

“Crash survivors also provide an insight into the long-term consequences and costs of road crashes.

“The program has received strong support from both parents and teachers with feedback indicating it has a strong and positive impact on students,” Mr Snelling said.

“Students who’ve attended the program have provided examples of where they’ve changed their driver behaviour to avoid risk.

“Young people are over-represented in crashes. Those aged between 16-24 years make up 12% of the population, but account for 27% of road fatalities and 30% of serious injuries on our roads.

“Our approach is to be tough on those who break the law, but allow the majority of young drivers that don’t commit traffic offences to progress to a full licence.

“Under changes to our Graduated Licensing Scheme, we’ve increased the supervised driving time required by Learner drivers from 50 to 75 hours and increased the minimum time on a Learner’s permit from 6-12 months.

“We’ve also restricted P1 & P2 platens under the age of 25 from driving high-powered cars,” Mr Snelling said.