Transport Minister Adam Giles today paid tribute to the Territory’s innovative Indigenous driver education and licensing program that has been named a finalist in the Australian Road Safety Awards.

“This is deserved national recognition of a Territory road safety program that is achieving real results in improving driver behaviour in our remote communities,” Mr Giles said.

The DriveSafe NT Remote trial program has seen nearly 300 Indigenous Territorians earn their Learner’s licence since it began in April.

This week the first group of 20 program participants received their P Plates on Groote Eylandt with another 130 across the Territory eligible to do their provisional licence test this month.

“The number of accidents on Territory roads where people have been unlicensed or unregistered is enormous and this trial program is already effectively addressing improving driver behaviour,” Mr Giles said.

The DriveSafe NT Remote team will visit 14 selected communities for one week blocks over a seven month period, to deliver theory education, practical driving training and licensing services.

The trial is a $3 million, two year program jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian governments and TIO.

“The program is also supporting people to get proof of identification papers, such as a birth certificate and providing pathways through licensing to real jobs,” Mr Giles said.

“I applaud the entire DriveSafe NT Remote team on their fantastic work and on being selected as a finalist in the Australian Road Safety Awards.

“The Territory Government will continue to support a package of road safety measures such as DriveSafe NT Remote to tackle the Territory’s road fatality rates which are three times higher than the national average.”

The winners of the Australian Road Safety Awards will be announced at a gala dinner in Sydney on Wednesday, 21 November.

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