Extending the successful DriveSafe NT Remote Program

Saving lives on remote Territory roads is a priority of Budget 2013 with $4.5 million over four years towards continuing the successful DriveSafe NT Remote program.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said investing in road safety is an investment in the future of the Northern Territory.

“DriveSafe NT Remote is aimed at closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage by providing greater access to driver education, training and licensing in remote Northern Territory communities.

“Indigenous people represent more than 50 per cent of our fatalities but only 30 per cent of our population.

“This innovative end-to-end program assists participants with gaining proof of identity, provides theory classes in plain English, verbal learner licence testing, driving lessons with qualified driving instructors and local mentor drivers, and provisional licence testing and other MVR services within their community. This program supports some of the Territory’s most disadvantaged residents by providing them with the education and training needed to become a competent, safe driver on our roads.

“The Northern Territory has more than 36,000 kilometres of roads linking remote towns with the bigger centres. Not having a licence is not a practical option for our remote residents.

“In the Northern Territory, almost 50 per cent of court cases in remote communities are for driving related offences and not having a licence contributes significantly to the incarceration of Indigenous people.

Since the program began in April last year, 430 Indigenous Territorians have earned their learner’s licence and 98 now have their provisional licence.

“This program is a win-win for all Territorians – better social outcomes, better economic opportunities and less people in prison,” Mr Giles said.
The Government will also provide an additional $250,000 to the DriveSafe NT Urban Program and $150,000 for the Motorcyclist Education Training and Licensing (METAL) Program to expand their driver/rider training courses.

**Improving Motor Vehicle Registry Services**

We will also continue to invest in improving Motor Vehicle Registry Services throughout the Territory by providing an additional $440,000 to meet growth in frontline service demand. One of our first actions in Government was to open the MVR at Goyder Road on Saturday mornings to improve services and reduce waiting times for Territorians. An additional $350,000 is being provided to enable this service to continue.

**Heavy Vehicle and Marine Safety**

As the NT economy continues to grow, so too does demand for additional transport safety services. Government is providing $315,000 for increased on-road heavy vehicle enforcement and $322,000 for additional marine safety services. This increased demand is associated with major projects including the INPEX and Total joint venture Ichthys project and regulation of additional vessels under the National Maritime Safety Regulator.

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