VEHICLE GIFTED TO HELP WITH DRIVER TRAINING IN REMOTE COMMUNITY

12 August 2013

Learner drivers in a remote Arnhem Land community will now have access to an extra vehicle, cutting waiting times for a vital driver training program.

Chief Minister Adam Giles today handed over the keys to a former NT Fleet 2008 Toyota Landcruiser as a gift to the Maningrida School for use as part of the DriveSafe NT Remote program.

“This program is changing lives and changing communities,” Mr Giles said.

“Having a licence is so important as it helps people get a job and move around the Territory safely. It’s a ticket to independence.

“Too many Indigenous people are being killed on our roads or are getting caught in the justice system because they don’t have a licence to drive a car. This program has already been a huge success and is turning that situation around.

“The vehicle we’ve handed over today will be used by local mentor drivers and the DriveSafe NT Remote Driving instructor for training. It will also be used for provisional licence testing by the DriveSafe NT Remote team."

There is currently only one suitable vehicle for training purposes. There’s been such huge interest that a second vehicle is needed to meet participant numbers.

Arafura MLA Francis Xavier said it was anticipated that up to 500 people in Maningrida would train for a C class licence through the program.

“So far 80 learner licences and six provisional licences have been issued in Maningrida since the program officially began in May this year.”

What started as a $3 million two-year trial program, jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government, TIO and the Northern Territory Department of Transport, has now been fully funded by the Country Liberals Government to continue for a further three years.

Territory-wide, DriveSafe NT Remote has now issued over 700 learner licences, conducted 1500 driving lessons and issued 200 provisional licences since it started in April 2012.

This program aims to help learner drivers in all aspects of attaining a licence, including birth certificates, driving theory instruction and driving lessons.

The three steps are:

- Theory and road rules and learner licence testing
- Driving lessons with an instructor and Mentor Drivers
- Road safety theory and P plate testing.

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