

## GREENS DRIVING CHANGE TO EMPOWER DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Having a driver's licence isn't just a rite of passage, it's a pathway to independence. Especially for those of us who live in rural and regional areas a licence is essential for getting to work, accessing education and keeping in contact with family and community.

The Greens believe that the state government can and should play a part in helping young people get their hours up and learn to drive safely. Getting the mandatory 120 hours of learner driving can be tough enough for young people who grow up with every economic advantage. For young people who have been in out of home care, First Nations people and families who are economically disadvantaged the 120 hours can be practically and financially impossible.

**This is why the Greens will deliver a fee-free \$50 million a year Drivers Licence Access program across TAFE to deliver 10,000 driver licence courses per year that will:**

- Assist with licence application forms, obtaining proof of identity documents and information about vehicle registration
- Provide educational support for young people with literacy problems and difficulties passing the driver knowledge test
- Give young people access to a supervised driver for the mandatory 120 hours of learner driving

It's about keeping our roads safe, empowering young people and giving them the tools they need to get their 120 hours up responsibly.

While First Nations people represent 2.5% of the population in NSW, it is estimated that First Nations people comprise just 0.5% of all licenced drivers.

Unlicenced driving too often leads to engagement with the criminal justice system and further the cycle of disadvantage in NSW. This is cycle that the Driver Licence Access program aims to break.

Because we expect the demand to be strong for the Driver Licence Access program the \$200 million four year package will be focussed on young people with the greatest needs. This includes young people who have been in out of home care, First Nations people and young adults from families that are economically disadvantaged. TAFE will work in partnership with existing not-for profit driver access programs to help deliver the supervised driving hours needed.

### CASE STUDY

The Maranguka Hub in Bourke runs a driver licensing support program run in Bourke as part of the Bourke Justice Reinvestment Program.

In regional NSW too many young people come into contact with the criminal justice system for traffic or driving offences, and Bourke has an exceptionally high rate of incarceration for driving without a licence amongst the Aboriginal community.

**Between 2015 and 2017 the Maranguka Driver Licensing Initiative saw:**

- 236 people successfully obtain their driving licences
- A 72% reduction in the number of young people (up to 25 years) proceeded against for driving without a licence from 2015 to 2017
- A 35% reduction in the number of people proceeded against for driving offences.

**Greens MP and Lead State Election Candidate David Shoebridge said:**

**"The Greens plan will help 10,000 young people a year get their licence and have access to work and education that they'd otherwise struggle to physically get to."**