



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

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TAFE STUDENTS TO GET THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE

Daryl Maguire MP Member for Wagga Wagga says TAFE apprentices across regional NSW are learning about lifesaving road safety skills as part of a vital education program developed in a partnership between Roads and Maritime Services, TAFE and the Centre for Road Safety to help drive down the road toll in regional areas.

Over 1200 TAFE apprentices have already benefited from the program which has been rolled out to regional campuses across NSW.

“Each year thousands of regional TAFE students including budding plumbers, sparkies and mechanics travel significant distances, some up to several hundreds of kilometres, for work or to attend training,” Mr Maguire said.

“Young drivers and those in regional areas continue to be overrepresented in the state’s road toll and this program is a great way to get the message across to take care and rest up before undertaking long drives on our roads.”

“Already this year we have lost 25 drivers aged between 17 and 25 across the state and 19 of these deaths were on country roads.

“Out here in the bush, things like driving tired can have tragic outcomes if young drivers don’t understand the warning signs or how to handle themselves behind the wheel, which is exactly why this program is so valuable.”

The program is part of the Toward Zero campaign which aims to reduce the road toll.

The workshops, which are delivered by Roads and Maritime staff in TAFE classrooms, focus on factors such as speed, driver fatigue, animals on regional roads, driver distractions and the impact of drugs and alcohol.

Centre for Road Safety Executive Director Bernard Carlon said in NSW we have a particular problem with young people dying on country roads.

“Men and women aged between 17 and 25 and drivers of light commercial vehicles are over represented in crashes, making TAFE students a target group for this program,” Mr Carlon said.

“Last year we lost 384 lives on our roads and 254 of those, or two thirds, were on country roads.

“We also lost 51 young people aged 17-25 on country roads last year, seven more deaths for this age group than in 2015.

“Another way we are tackling this problem is with our recent partnership with the National Rugby League, NSW Rugby League and Country Rugby League for our historic Knock-On Effect campaign to reduce road trauma in the country.

“We are also investing \$253 million in NSW through the Community Road Safety Fund. Through the fund we are upgrading the safety of our roads especially in country areas and funding important road safety programs such as high visibility police operations and the school road safety education program.”

The program will roll out in Wagga Wagga during October and November.

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