

## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY (STAYSAFE) PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

*Concept plan for a strengthened network of Learner Driver Mentor Programs (LDMP) across NSW, supporting novice drivers in Regional and Remote communities*

December 2021

### **Overview**

Young people living in rural and remote areas of NSW often struggle to obtain a driver's licence. This leads to increased rates of offending (driving/riding unlicensed), and reduced employment opportunities for young people seeking work in communities where no alternate transport options exist.

Various stakeholders maintain that a lack of access to a suitable vehicle, and/or a suitable supervising driver, is a major barrier preventing young people in rural and remote NSW obtain their driver's licence. This view is supported by research, and by the rates of offending when young people are brought before the courts for driving without a licence.

In response to this identified problem, various iterations of Learner Driver Mentor Programs have emerged. These programs supply a vehicle, and pair learner drivers with volunteer mentors (supervising drivers). Presently, the availability of LDMP's is haphazard and access to a program is not guaranteed for those who need support and assistance.

### **Concept**

The Learner Driver Mentor Program model already exists, and the networks among Not For Profit, Non-Government Organisations and other Charitable entities are capable of supporting volunteer supervisors. The greatest expenses involved in running a LDMP relate to the provision of a motor vehicle, and the associated running costs.

PCYC NSW believes that if the various discrete LDMP's operating now could be brought together, the synergies achieved would lead to greater sustainability and better outcomes for young people who need the support of these programs. Youthsafe are the leading experts in LDMP's in Australia, having developed the award-winning 'LDMP Toolkit' for NFP's and NGO's some years ago.

### **Social Investment Bond**

The corporate sector is likely to support a model that partners with trusted and recognised entities in the youth engagement and road safety space. With endorsement from Government, a Social Investment Bond or instrument could fund a fleet of suitable vehicles. PCYC and other such entities could host and/or support the various LDMP's that would remain under the control and direction of their existing operators.

Partnering with an entity such as PCYC offers all stakeholders considerable reassurance. PCYC NSW operates 66 club sites across NSW, we have embedded extensive risk management systems and risk oversight into our operations, and the organisation has access to appropriate insurance mechanisms. The size and scale of the PCYC NSW operation means that a project of this nature could be piloted and rolled out in a cost-effective way, with appropriate evaluation mechanisms incorporated into the project. This would also include the capacity to accurately measure and report on the socio-economic benefits offered by the model, allowing detailed evaluation of the community dividend offered. There would also be an inherent return to the community by way of reduced rates of offending and greater employment opportunities offered to young people who are able to legally drive.

### **Model**

1. Social Investment Bond establishes mechanism to fund capital purchases of vehicles
2. Steering committee formed, comprising key stakeholders and subject matter experts (PCYC Chair) Committee representation critical
3. PCYC operates vehicle fleet, centralising risk oversight, insurance, and fleet management
4. Providers of Learner Driver Mentor Programs access fleet vehicles from pool
5. LDMP providers coordinate volunteers in local communities
6. Committee facilitates evaluation of model and reports on community dividend
7. Program evaluated on merits in terms of sustainability and return to government



Dominic Teakle  
Chief Executive Officer



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We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders past, present and future. We value their continuing cultures and connection to land, water and sea. We are committed to creating safe and welcoming Clubs across NSW for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to thrive and grow as future community leaders.

And to answer the other question on notice outstanding our records show we supported 55 students who identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander to get their licence in 2021

Kind regards



Dominic Teakle  
Chief Executive Officer



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