

Drivin' 4 Employment

SOUTH SYDNEY, NSW

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The Drivin' for Employment program has been designed to address the issue of high youth unemployment in the South Sydney LGA. It has been identified that there is a need for an employment program, which gives participants real options for employment.

One of the barriers to youth employment is the lack of identification and licences. Participants of the program are given opportunities within a variety of industries that identify driver's licences as a core requirement.

Target Group

Young people aged 17 to 24 living in the South Sydney LGA are targeted for the program. The area covered by Redfern, Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo has a large indigenous population.

Participants are referred from local youth agencies, Centrelink, JPET and job placement networks such as Namaroo and Work Ventures. It is hoped that the program will be ongoing with places being limited to 10 participants per program. The numbers are limited to ensure that participants receive quality assistance in all sections of the program from the initial driving stage through to employment placements.

Outline of Program

There are two parts to this program; the first assists first time drivers to get their L's and P's. This section has a driver safety component, a budgeting session as well as direct driving lessons and tests. Learners must complete 50 hours of driving. The scheme involves an 8 week learner course and 4 professional driving lessons. The council has bought a car for the scheme and young people are trained by local youth workers and teachers.

The second section is directed at young people who already have licences and have an interest in obtaining LR and forklift licences. Along with the lessons and training there is a component looking directly at linking the participants with employment opportunities through Centrelink and job placement networks.

Aim

The aim of the Drivin' for Employment program is to partner with local agencies, state and federal bodies, RTA, employment and job placement agencies to encourage young people to gain employment in the commercial and public industry, where licences for passenger (car and bus) and forklifts are an essential skill.

Objectives

The main objectives of the program are to offer participants skills, qualifications and support to enter the workforce.

KPI's

- Increase in local employment opportunities
- Increase in local youth employment
- Increase in successful partnerships between Gov and non Gov agencies

So far,

- 140 young people have gone through the programme
- 43 young people have complete the second stage of obtaining a forklift licence