

Case Study

Community Road Safety Grant



Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative

U Turn Program
\$24,900 – 2018/19

Project aims

The Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative (MDSI) U Turn Program assists young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds to obtain their driver's licence. Gaining a licence is directly linked to increased opportunities for employment and study pathways so driving can be an economic imperative and source of personal empowerment.

The U Turn Program aims to provide participants with:

- › a set number of driving lessons through an accredited driving school
- › road safety awareness training

- › volunteer driving mentors to supervise learner drivers as they accrue their log book driving hours.

Implementation

The project implementation strategy involved a number of steps:

- › A call-to-action was communicated via local groups, online platforms and partner networks using targeted messages to recruit participants into the Program.
- › New driving mentors and volunteers were carefully interviewed and recruited to work closely with the participants.
- › 39 participants were interviewed and recruited. They were booked into driving lessons and were supported during their lesson plan.

The project team regularly reviewed and consolidated the volunteer training course for the driving mentors to ensure issues were addressed as they arose and to ensure quality assurance.

Project outcomes

The Project reflects the MDSI commitments to open access and opportunities for young people from vulnerable backgrounds, including new arrivals and refugees. By decreasing the barriers in obtaining a licence for those from disadvantaged or CALD backgrounds, significant steps forward have been made.

The project was continually reviewed and assessed to ensure risks and opportunities for growth were identified.

There were difficulties in sourcing volunteer driver supervisors and financial constraints to fund participants with more than 7 hours of professional driving training.

A key factor for success was culturally sensitive driving instructors.

MDSI found access to vehicles was a deterrent for some participants so they purchased a Yaris 2016 for specific use on the project.

Next steps

MDSI is currently recruiting and interviewing more participants on the waiting list as well as implementing important learnings from the project to date.



The NSW Government's Community Road Safety Grants Program is helping to move communities across the state towards zero road trauma by providing financial support to community groups to run local projects that increase road safety awareness and support safer road use.

For more information on the next round of grants see

roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/aboutthecentre/communitygrants