Innovation in Policy Development Award.

It was a case of so near and yet so far for L2P at the recent Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Leadership in the Public Sector Awards, with L2P coming second to a Department of Education initiative.

The annual IPAA Awards recognise outstanding achievement in the Victorian public service and community sector across indigenous employment; innovation in service delivery; innovation in policy development; risk management; health and safety; and support for emerging leaders. There is also a young indigenous leader scholarship. Nominations are open to a range of public sector, local government and human service organisations. L2P was entered in the policy development category.

Everyone involved in L2P should take heart from the strong performance of L2P. Few entrants are shortlisted for the finals, and L2P was one of only two programs nominated in its category. The L2P program received a certificate of recognition as a finalist. With the very high standard of entrants, this showing is further evidence of the great work undertaken by everyone associated with L2P.

Above: Vic Roads and TAC representatives celebrate the award.

Right: the attendees prior to the awards ceremony.

Background

On 1 July 2007, the Victorian government introduced a 120 hour minimum driving experience requirement for learner drivers aged less than 21 years, as part of the Graduated Licensing System (GLS).

The L2P program provides supervised driving experience to learner permit holders aged 16-21 years who lack capacity to meet the 120 hour experience requirement. This ensures that these young people have access to the level of road safety enjoyed by other learners and are not significantly disadvantaged by the GLS.

Objectives

The key objectives of the L2P program are to

- Provide access to driving experience for those learner drivers who have considerable difficulty in gaining access to a supervising driver and/or vehicle.
- Reduce the crash and injury rate of young novice drivers by ensuring that they obtain 120 hours of supervised practice.
- Assist the mobility and potential social and economic success of disadvantaged young people through providing access to a driver’s licence.

Program Description

Local L2P programs recruit licensed drivers from the community to provide supervised driving experience to young learner drivers. Supervising drivers register as volunteers with the L2P auspice organisation and undertake 10 hours of training provided by VicRoads appointed L2P Trainers. The training equips volunteers with an understanding of young driver crash issues, how to work with young people, road rules and requirements for supervising driving. Volunteers are screened for suitability.

The young learner drivers are usually accessed through agencies managing at risk young people. Driving sessions are undertaken in a community sponsored car which has a minimum 4-star safety rating. Progression of learner drivers through each of four stages of driving occurs in conjunction with a small number of lessons from professional driving instructors, to ensure the learner is ready to move to the next stage.

The local L2P Coordinator is responsible for program management, including the matching of volunteers to learner drivers, the vehicle booking system, operational issues and administrative processes.

Program Participation – February 2011

There are currently 1024 mentors providing supervised driving practice to 800 learners across the state. The learners have logged over 12,000 hours of driving experience. Over 65 young people involved in the program have obtained their probationary licence. The program has capacity of up to 1800 learners when fully implemented in 2011.

Key Take Away Messages

• The economic cost of road casualty crashes in Victoria exceeds $2.9 billion, with each death costing $1.7 million and each serious injury $408,000 (sources: VicRoads; TAC). The human costs are beyond calculation
• The Graduated Licensing System is based on research demonstrating a 30% crash risk reduction for young people with 120 hours experience
• L2P assists disadvantaged young people to achieve 120 hours on road experience. It offers a staged driving experience process backed by a volunteer training program, designed to ensure participants reach community road safety standards
• The total L2P funding period runs from 2008 to 2013
• Each L2P Program is funded for three years
• L2P is a strong partnership between government, community and local businesses
• L2P has been highly successful, with take-up across 60 Local Government Areas. It is the largest youth mentoring program in the state
• L2P participants report improved attitudes toward unlicensed and hoon driving
• L2P provides other benefits to disadvantaged young Victorians such as enhanced employment prospects and social connection through obtaining a driver licence

Further Information

Information about each project can be obtained from the L2P Coordinator in funded Council areas. See http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/l2p for contact details.

Other information such as crash statistics can be obtained from http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules
L2P hints from Baw Baw

Here are some hints for learners from learners in the Baw Baw program

- Don’t be nervous
- Always listen to the Mentor
- Learn your Left & Right
- Respect the space you are in - smoking, perfume or body odor can be awful
- Be straight & honest
  ⇒ try to meet before you start driving sessions
  ⇒ let the Mentor know when you are tired
  ⇒ let the Mentor know when you are nervous
  ⇒ let the Mentor know if you don’t understand
  ⇒ Be excited and enjoy it!
- THINK! and TAKE YOUR TIME

Beth Carr (Baw Baw L2P Coordinator, at right) pictured with a group of learners who brainstormed some rules for the program

Indigenous Access Fund for Certificates of Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Please see information below re: Indigenous Access Fund for certificates from Registry of Birth, Death & Marriages.

Registry of Birth, Death, Marriage has established a new fund (Indigenous access Fund). The fund meets costs for standard certificates related to a birth, death, marriage, or change of name.

An eligible customer is a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin living in Victoria, Who holds a current Centrelink Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card.

What paperwork does a customer have to complete? The appropriate application form (e.g. Birth, Marriage, Death, Change of Name application form).

Proof of eligibility to access the fund:

⇒ Indigenous Access Statutory declaration
⇒ Current Centrelink Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card
⇒ Proof of Identity : at least 3 forms from the list below:
  Driver License
  ATM Card
  Health Care Card
  Medicare card
  Bank Statement (Must have residential address on it)

All Identification including the Statutory Declaration must be certified by a Police Officer.

If you have any questions or require application forms or Statutory Declarations please contact:

Ifza Rind
Koori Liaison Officer
Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
GPO Box 4332, Melbourne VIC 3001
Phone: (03) 9613 5980 Fax: (03) 9613 5880
Email: ifza.rind@justice.vic.gov
MMARS reports: what are they good for?

Opens the Report Date Manager. Reports can be date limited. Some reports to VicRoads live here.

View or print the Contact Lists. Filtered same as the current list on the screen.

All of your checklists in one report.

These show all matches and sessions from each participant’s point of view, filtered as per screen.

Reports 01 – 04: The full reports (02 and 04) are same as above but including all records. Print these regularly as a hardcopy backup for all drive-session entries. Handy for checking against summary reports below, especially before submitting VicRoads required reports.

O5-06: Lists all participants with their current drive-session summaries.

21: A report which supplies some answers to questions on the Annual Funding application pro forma

22: The most comprehensive summary. Required by VicRoads. Often several pages. Look at the “bottom lines” of both Learner and Mentor sections. See if it is as expected. This is similar to the data extracted for the new quarterly reports described below.

New Quarterly reporting.
By now you will have updated to version 2.060 or greater. There’s a new menu item in the dropdown [database] menu: “create de-identified file to send” the one with the mail icon. 
Given that your database is up to date, all you will need to do for the reporting requirement is, select the menu item, then attach the zipped file to an email to mmars@batchtracker.com.au.

The state-wide program activity report simply measures the number and activity of learner-mentor matches in terms of driving hours. Of course your real program activity involves much more than driving hours but MMARS doesn’t formally record that information.

If you would like to know what this information looks like, print out report 22: 22_L2P Annual Report (Filtered or Date Ranged). The summary lines (at the bottom in red text,) for both Learners and Mentors contain the information of interest. It’s a good idea to do this anyway and compare it with your expectations. You may need to revisit your database before sending the data.

From FAQ: “Entering drive sessions for matches is tedious (HOME>detail>Add/View Sessions>Add sessions for current match). Is there a faster way?

Answer: Two faster ways actually.
1. HOME>Insert>schedule sessions>and click add on the session date>select the match from the list>enter the session. This method is handy for entering in advance and gives a graphical view of vehicle scheduling as a bonus (image here)
2. HOME>View>View list of matches> select the match from the list>enter the session (image here)

Quick Q’s

Q. Do Driving instructors need a 4 star NCAP rated car and do they need to go through the same checks as the Volunteers?
A. Yes and yes. The same conditions apply when instructors are a part of the L2P program. For vehicle information see www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au

Q. Can we use the Keys to drive lessons to extend our program?
A. Yes; keys2drive is an Australian Government funded program offering learner drivers and their parents/supervisors a free driving lesson with an accredited driving instructor. See: www.keys2drive.com.au

Training Update

CONDUCTING L2P training – here are some handy hints!

To ensure a productive learning environment it would be great if:

1. the training room is big enough to cater for the number of expected participants
2. the tables could be arranged so that they are in clusters with @4 participants seated at each table
3. there is a small table for the projector and laptop in easy reach of a power point
4. there is a projector screen or at least a solid/flat wall to project onto

.refreshments, snacks and supper are important. A large number of participants arrive at training straight from work and have not eaten. Some programs cater for this really well and have snacks like fruit, or dip and biscuits and lollies on the tables, with tea/coffee and cold drinks ready on arrival. This helps the participants focus until the supper break. You would be surprised how often the mentors comment on the food and how appreciative they are that this is provided for them. It is another way to thank them for their time and commitment to the program.

.if you are sending a participant along to another program’s training, it would be helpful if you could follow up with the participant to confirm their intended attendance for each session. Then advise the hosting coordinator of their confirmed attendance or inability to attend.

BOOKING TRAINING: Until advised otherwise please continue to make contact with Carolyn Hibbert (Carolyn.hibbert@bigpond.com or 0407 543 461) to schedule your L2P training needs for 2011. Currently new bookings are being taken from April onwards.

Note from Bob George

Bob George has been a champion of road safety for many years and has been a driving force in the success of the L2P Program. We wish Bob & his family all the best in these difficult times.

Just wanted to bring you up to date with my health issues as it has been many months since I crawled into my little “hidey hole” and ceased communication with everyone. This was not deliberate but really the only way in which I could manage the uncertainty and pain associated with my illness.

I have had many visits to hospital since August last year and up until a week ago there has been no confirmed diagnosis of the disease or treatment plan. This has made contact with people difficult as there has been nothing new to report.

Approximately ten days ago following further surgery, I finally had a diagnosis of the illness. It was certainly unexpected and an enormous shock to all of us when we were advised that I was suffering from Mesothelioma. This is a cancer which forms in the linings of the lung any time from ten to sixty years after first exposure to asbestos. My only recollection of exposure to asbestos was during my early working years as a technician in training with the PMG (now Telstra). Sorry to hit you so hard with the diagnosis, but there is no easy way of letting people know about a disease like this and I am sure it comes as a fairly significant shock to you as it did to the family and me.

I know through contact with Greg that you have all been concerned about my health and wellbeing and this has certainly been helpful in lifting my spirits through what I can only describe as an extremely difficult time.

I am sorry I haven’t been around during the development of your projects and missing so many of the important phases of each of them. I get snippets of information and feel great that you are achieving so much over such a short period of time. So keep up the good work and make sure that L2P is a community program that volunteers want to be part of and that young people are proud to talk about, not only in getting their probationary licence but also in the changes it has made to their lives.

So what does the future hold in store for me?

Firstly the completion of the radiotherapy program designed to assist in pain management;

Final resolution of the pain management program which will enable me to lead a “normal” active life;

Finalisation of a treatment plan for the future to slow down the progress of the disease;

Getting out of hospital and returning home;

Continuing to draw on the support of family, friends and colleagues to assist me in the battle ahead.

Continued success for all of you and I look forward to a time in the not too distant future when I can make a visit to say hello and see what is happening. In the meantime please feel free to contact me via email or my postal address: bobgeorge2@bigpond.com 333 Nepean Hwy Chelsea 3196

The Moira Shire Council’s L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program has achieved the important milestone of first participant to successfully gain a Probationary Licence. Local youngster, Bridget Wawrzycki, has gained her Probationary Licence with the assistance of L2P Volunteer Supervising Driver mentor Annie Jones.

Bridget Wawrzyck proudly displays her 'P Plate'. Pictured with L2P Project Officer Debra Kruz (left) and Supervising Driver mentor Annie Jones (right).

Reminder

There is an International Volunteer Day - December 5th each year.!!!!

New Arrivals

The newest L2P program, contracted in December 2010, is a joint initiative between Buloke and Loddon Shire Councils. We congratulate the local communities on their enthusiasm to establish a program. Unfortunately the Loddon Mallee Region was hit extremely hard by the recent floods, and this has had an impact on commencing the L2P program.

To the credit of these municipalities and their volunteers, they are still fully committed to the L2P program and plan to complete their first year at the end of 2011. If you receive any requests for assistance from the Buloke - Loddon Program please be sure to help them out.
From mentor Bonnie to L2P Coordinator Shane Kelly

Hello Shane, I know that I have updated you from time to time, either by e-mail or personally. Lee-Arna has progressed fantastically over the few months that we have been driving. We often comment on having a diary on our progress so that we can look back over it and see how things have improved.

We have lots of stories to tell. We are well on the way to her being able to take a test, but as yet the hours are not up, we are sitting on approx 75 hours. We enrolled in a free driving instructor test drive. That was great as she learnt some new things and I could improve on my teaching skills. It is really amazing how when we think back to all the things that were incorrect and needed improving, to now where we are up to the stage of her driving with little input from me. Lee-Arna will quite often correct herself after an error before I have had the opportunity to mention it. She listens and takes on board what has been asked of her. On another level, I would like to say that the whole L2P program is working well. I have had no issues with the booking system and find it easy to use.

Communication between my mentee and I is working well and we have no issues with pick up and drop offs. I also appreciate your input in regards to any advice that I need. All and all its a great program that works well for everyone involved.

I hope that this program continues in our community to assist young adults that need assistance with a vehicle, mentor and the dedication from the volunteers to help these people to achieve what may otherwise be impossible. In turn may there opportunities to a better outcome be a testament to all involved.

Regards Bonnie

Bonnie & Lee-Arna get ready for another drive

Local Communities - L2P program, Vic Police and Garry and Warren Smith look “Under the Bonnet” together.

The Cities of Monash and Kingston, SEAAC L2P program has been fully operational since November 2010, with 22 learner drivers and 30 volunteers from the community on the road.

Program vehicle sponsors Garry and Warren Smith, with the support of Victoria Police and the L2P program, held a GWS “Under the Bonnet” workshop at their Service Dealership on Monday 7\textsuperscript{th} of March.

The workshop provided an opportunity for those who are less mechanically minded to learn maintenance skills such as how to change a wheel and perform fluid level checks. It was also an opportunity for learners drivers and volunteers to interact outside driving hours.

The Oakleigh police, Monash police and the Highway Patrol Vehicle attended to show their support, and to advocate safe and responsible driving on our roads. The Oakleigh police house the program vehicle, and provide young learner drivers, especially from refugee and migrant backgrounds, the opportunity to talk to police.

SEAAC would like to thank Garry and Warren Smith for their commitment to the program and for providing educational opportunities to our future drivers.

Diana Nguyen, SEAAC L2P Program Coordinator

Pictured - participants in the recent GWS Workshop.

Bass Coast L2P Program had a recent windfall when Program Coordinator Steve Johnson secured a sponsorship deal with the Kilcunda Community Development Association to supply Polo Shirts and Vests for its 16 Driving Mentors.

The shirts, produced by a local business, are an excellent means of promoting the program and rewarding the volunteers. Drive Mentor Andy Berzins received the shirts on behalf of his fellow mentors from Association Secretary Shelley Applebee.

Shelley said the uniforms were one way for the association to give back to the community by supporting such a worthwhile community program.

Photo (left to right): Steve Johnson, Shelley Applebee, Andy Berzins making a shirt hand-over in front of the Bass Coast program vehicle.
Bruce Cormack, a long time resident of the Yarra Ranges with a long history of being involved in community strengthening programs, was recently awarded for his work on L2P with Wesley Child, Youth and Family Services (Eastern).

This is a huge achievement for the DHS Eastern/Wesley L2P Program as only one award is offered by Wesley per region, and the L2P program was competing against other programs that have been established for many years.

Bruce was a founding volunteer with the L2P program, and has worked tirelessly to turn around the lives of two young men who reside in DHS out of home care as a result of suffering child abuse.

Both young men have had limited opportunities to develop positive role models. Bruce has not only devoted 6-10 hours a week to mentor both as they learn to drive, but has provided them with an outstanding role model. Bruce tailors the support he offers to each young man, giving them the chance to feel valued and supported as they make their way toward independent living.

Bruce has assisted one of his learners to grow from wanting to quit high school to enrolling in university (he started his course very recently). He used driving sessions to take him to university open days and car auction yards to help him find a first vehicle. Bruce has also supported him in finding work.

Bruce has helped his second learner to gain independent living skills and engage in wider life and recreational activities.

The DHS Eastern/Wesley L2P Program has also had 2 learners obtain their licenses, achieving all their hours through L2P. Two more will take the probationary driving test by the end of the month.

The program is awaiting delivery of a third car in the near future.

Grant Hunter
Coordinator, L2P
Children, Youth and Family Services, Eastern Region

Clusters and next meeting dates

**North Eastern Cluster** - Rob Allen. Next Meeting Thurs 12 May 10.30—1.30
VicRoads Office Benalla
Alpine Shire, Benalla Rural City, Indigo Shire, Mansfield Shire, Mitchell Shire, Moira Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Shepparton City, Strathbogie Shire, Towong Shire, Wangaratta City, Wodonga City.

**South West Cluster** - Dave Lavithis. Next Meeting Thu 19/05/2011 10.30—1.30
Committee Room 1 Civic Centre, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool
Ballarat City, Greater Geelong & Surf Coast, Glenelg Shire, Warrnambool City and Moyne, Hepburn Shire, Moorabool Shire, Horsham City, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera & Yarrambiaack Shires.

**Eastern Cluster** - Alana McCallum. Next Meeting Thu 16/06/2011 10:00—1:00
VicRoads Conference Room, 120 Kay Street, Traralgon
Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw City, Latrobe City, Cardinia Shire, South Gippsland Shire, Wellington/East Gippsland Shires.

**Metro North West Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Next Meeting Mon 16 May 10.30—1.30
Brunswick Town Hall 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick
Banyule City, Brimbank City, Darebin City, Hume City, Yarra City, Whittlesea Shire, Port Phillip City, Maribyrnong City, Moonee Valley City, Moreland City, Nillumbik Shire, Melton Shire.

**Metro South East Cluster** - Roopa Umesh. Next Meeting Wed 18 May 10.30—1.30
Oakleigh Courthouse
Casey City, Greater Dandenong, Bayside City, Yarra Ranges Shire, DHS Eastern Region, DHS Southern Region, Stonnington City, Frankston City, Mornington Peninsula City, Manningham City, Monash City/Kingston City.

**Northern Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Next Meeting Tue 24 May 10.30—1.30
Swan Hill
Greater Bendigo, Buloke Shire, Campaspe Shire, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mildura City, Swan Hill City.