

AZYHP ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2013-2014



GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name	Driving Change
Reporting Period	1 st June 2013 – 31 st May 2014
Project Leader	Professor Rebecca Ivers
Project Team	Loretta McLaughlin, Project Manager Jake Byrne, Aboriginal Project Officer Patricia Cullen, PhD Student Jo Degney, Manager, Philanthropy & Corporate Partnerships

Driving Change is supported by a number of committees, including:

- Management Committee
- Program Steering Committee
- Research and Evaluation Committee

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2013-2014

- In the current reporting period, the three (3) pilot sites at Redfern, Shellharbour and Griffith, were successfully commissioned and launched at Community Events during NAIDOC week August 2013. To date, over 225 clients are registered across all sites;
- AstraZeneca staff have raised almost \$45,000 – money which will provide small cars to five sites, and to provide for other services such as paying for birth certificates and professional driving lessons;
- Over 225 young people have registered with Driving Change for assistance with licensing services across all program sites. It is expected that some 720 young people will be directly impacted (approximately 60 per site);
- 59 young people have received their Learner licence, Provisional 1 or Provisional 2 licence;
- 11 people have had licences reinstated and 27 people have had licence restrictions lifted ;
- Building on the much recognised need to address access to licensing for Aboriginal people, Transport NSW and NSW Health have contributed funds to establish a further nine (9) sites in NSW. The introduction of nine (9) further sites will allow The George Institute to implement a step wedge trial design and evaluation. This investigative design involves a sequential roll out of the intervention to participants over set time periods and provides the opportunity to increase the quality of the evidence base. A further \$120,000 was provided by Transport NSW to provide additional project coordination and support to the Youth Workers, and to provide communication materials to address volunteer recruitment and retention.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

- Launch of sites at Redfern, Shellharbour, Griffith:
Driving Change was launched during NAIDOC week in August 2013 at each of the sites. In Redfern, a stall was held at the NAIDOC Cup at Redfern Oval, and interest in the program was very well received. A public launch was held in Griffith, with local media and members of the Driving Change Griffith Stakeholder Group, consisting of members of the community, services and government departments. Driving Change was launched in Shellharbour at the Annual Warrigal Family Fun Day. Former youth worker for Shellharbour, Michael Bird introduced Driving Change at the Shellharbour Council Chambers presentation of NAIDOC Awards. The event was attended by Aboriginal Elders, community, Council, State and Federal representatives.
- Extensive consultation through Program Steering Committee and local communities, and review of NSW population and licensing data to identify further locations and host organisations to establish nine (9) further Driving Change program sites. The selection of sites represents a balance of urban, regional and remote locations, and has involved extensive consultation with other programs and organisations in NSW, including Birrang, Legal Aid NSW, Attorney General's Department and Red Cross.
- Establishment of six (6) new sites at Dubbo, Condobolin, Wagga Wagga, Taree, Dareton-Wentworth, and Raymond Terrace, with the final three (3) sites to be established at Mount Druitt, Campbelltown and Kempsey.
- Recruitment and training of six (6) new youth workers, with recruitment and consultation underway for the final three (3) sites;
- Development of the Learner Driver Mentor Program, including a detailed risk assessment conducted in liaison with AstraZeneca Risk Management Team;
- Delivery of Learner Driver Mentor Coordinator Training for the Youth Workers in September 2013;
- Launch of the Learner Driver Mentor Program at Shellharbour, Dubbo, Taree, Griffith and Redfern. Extensive consultation with YouthSafe, Redfern Local Area Commander, VicRoads L2P program, and Professional Driving Instructors to implement the driving programs in local areas.
- Delivery of Mentor Training at Redfern, Shellharbour, Griffith, and Dubbo (in partnership with Uniting Care's OneTwentyCountdown);
- A series of meetings throughout the year with Job Services Agencies, Red Cross, Birrang and other organisations operating across NSW to deliver a coordinated approach to licensing and access to funding for individual clients and development of referral form to be used by Job Service Agencies;
- Revision and redevelopment of the Youth Worker Manual and Induction Training;
- Development of internal management processes to allow enable Youth Workers to access program funds for clients, background checks for mentors, implementation of Youth Worker Teleconference and Sharepoint site to assist in streamlining the management of the 12 sites;
- AZ Management Committee, Program Steering Committee and Evaluation Committee meetings have been conducted quarterly;
- Ongoing site visits and management of site activities;
- Preparation and submission of funding application grants;
- Licensing data has been submitted to the Stats department for development of the baseline for the outcome evaluation;
- Negotiation of Memorandums of Understanding with host organisations for use of shared office space and other facilities (for example, shared program vehicles);

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- Ethics approval was received in September.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The evaluation is progressing as planned. Doctoral student Patricia Cullen has drafted a paper examining licensing rates for Aboriginal people in NSW which will form a baseline measure for the outcome evaluation of the program. Cullen is also conducting in depth-interviews of youth workers at several sites as part of the process evaluation, and closely monitoring completeness and validity of data collection at each site. Youth workers at the first 3 sites have also commenced follow-up interviews for clients to ascertain long- term outcomes.

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CASE STUDIES

GRIFFITH

Through continued support and encouragement, Graham a 28 year old man from Griffith has successfully attained his Learner and P1 licence with support from Driving Change, setting a great example for young men in his community.

Graham needed to gain his driver's licence for continued employment opportunities and to improve his access and ability to participate in an active rural lifestyle. Through partnerships established by Griffith Youth Worker Maydina Penrith, Graham's employer learned about Driving Change and encouraged him to access the programme during work hours. This is testament to the level of engagement in the Griffith community, enabling young people to access Driving Change.

After spending time with Maydina studying the Roads and Maritime Service Road Users' Handbook and practicing the online Driver Knowledge Test, Graham was able to pass his Drivers Knowledge Test and attain his learner licence. Being over 25 Graham was immediately able to start working towards his P1 licence.

Through her community networks, Maydina was able to organise professional driving instruction for Graham. With practice, hard work and determination, Graham got the go ahead from his professional driving instructor to attempt his P1 Driving Test. Graham passed his P1 test and is now an independently licensed driver.

Graham is an important role model for the young men in his community. He is a valued employee and is excited by his future prospects in the work force. As a result of Graham's positive experience, he continues to encourage young people to access Driving Change.



Above : Graham, 28 with his L's and P's.

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REDFERN

Glen was on his Learner's Licence for nearly two years prior to coming across the Driving Change programme.

As an eighteen year old, on the cusp of turning nineteen, much of Glen's teen life was spent relying on friends and family to get him to work and other commitments. This reliance on others resulted in a strong desire for independence and freedom. After struggling to meet the required 120 hours of driving practice on his own, Glen turned to Molisa, the Driving Change Community Licensing Champion in Redfern, where she provided him with the support to move on to the next phase of the licensing process, the Provisional P1/Red licence. With the recent addition of a car for the program, thanks to AstraZeneca, Glen was able to start accumulating the supervised driving hours he was struggling to obtain otherwise. Molisa helped Glen make significant progress in reducing the required supervised hours by sending him to a Safer Driving Course at PCYC which counted towards 20 hours in his log book. This course was paid for by the Driving Change programme and Glen is now on his Red Provisional Licence as a result of it.

For Glen, the opportunity to gain a driver licence is an important step towards increased independence and a better chance of employment. Glen mentioned that his situation, of being stranded on his L's for two years, was not unusual in his family and, in fact, he had family members who had been in the same situation but for longer. It is stories like these, not uncommon across many Aboriginal communities that show the importance of the Driving Change programme.

With the help of Molisa and the Driving Change programme, supported by the Astra Zeneca staff Glen has been able to overcome the barriers standing in the way of him getting his P's, gaining independence and becoming a role model and an asset to his family and his community.

Encouraged by positive results, Glen has referred many other young Aboriginal people in the community to the Driving Change programme.



Left: Glen, a Redfern Driving Change student.

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SHELLHARBOUR

Heidi is a 25 year old single mother and full time carer for her mother with mobility issues. Getting from place to place often presents a significant challenge.

As a full-time carer and mother of a 24 month old, Heidi is unable to work. Money is often very tight in their household, with transportation taking up a large portion of the household income. This is further compounded by Heidi's mother's mobility issues, which prevents her from using lower cost forms of public transport such as buses and trains, which forced them to rely on taxi services. Prior to accessing Driving Change, Heidi already had a Learner license and a vehicle on hand, however with no one in her family holding a full license she was unable to receive supervised learner driver instruction to progress to her Provisional 1 licence.

Shellharbour Driving Change Youth Worker, Michael Bird, met Heidi in September 2013 and since then, arranged for driving lessons through his community networks. Heidi received a free lesson through the Keys2Drive programme, and also with a local volunteer driver mentor in Shellharbour. Heidi was also able to arrange further lessons with the professional driving instructor to build her confidence and skill level behind the wheel.

Through hard work, Heidi successfully achieved her Provisional 1 License. This has greatly assisted her ability to transport her mother, daughter and herself and for her to be an active member of the community. Heidi reflects on her experience, "Gaining a Provisional 1 Driver's License has significantly improved life for my whole family."

Since attaining her Provisional 1 Driver's License, Heidi has been able to ensure her mother and daughter can attend regular medical visits, her living expenses have decreased due to no longer relying on taxis, and she has begun attending weekly line-dancing classes for her own personal wellbeing and to meet friends and build her personal support network.

Youth Worker Michael Bird reports, "Since first having contact with Heidi, I have noticed her outlook and general well-being seems to have improved greatly. She now speaks very positively and enthusiastically about her future plans, and I genuinely believe that the assistance she has received through the Driving Change program has had a direct influence on this."

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Left: Heidi, finally able to get behind the wheels of her car.

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