

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

#### **DriveSafe NT**

- 1. Are there any plans to expand the DriveSafe NT program into more remote communities?**

The DriveSafe NT program commenced delivery in remote communities in April 2012. Initially the program was being delivered to 14 communities. DriveSafe NT Remote Program is currently servicing all 75 remote communities.

To assist people in remote communities, DriveSafe NT have worked in partnership with the Department of Education; and Community Development Program providers, to train their staff as Supervising Drivers creating access for more people who are skilled to provide in-car driving experience to learner drivers.

The expansion of the DriveSafe Remote Program is a Towards Zero initiative and consistent with this, the DriveSafe NT group are currently exploring a restructure of its delivery scope to enable third party providers to assist in delivering DriveSafe in regional towns, freeing up resources to service the 75 remote communities more regularly.

- 2. What is the timeframe for any expansion and will extra funding be made available for an expansion?**

The ongoing enhancements to the program are undertaken within the current funding allocation.

**3. In the list of driving schools offering services under DriveSafe NT the grants/subsidies allocation varies from \$450 to \$35,000. How do you determine the allocations? Is it a voucher system of some sort?**

Grants/subsidies are activated by approved Driving Instructors through three methods:

- One payment method is through the theory classes where an approved theory instructor is requested to deliver a session through Drive 1 or Drive 2 classes. A list of scheduled theory classes is circulated to instructors seeking expression of interest.
- The second payment method is through an e-voucher that is requested and presented by the participant who gives the voucher number to the instructor to activate it in the online DriveSafe system for the participant's driving lesson.
- The third payment method is by a booking system for a practical assessment for the participant's Provisional Licence. The practical assessment must be performed by an approved instructor / examiner who has not provided driving lessons to the participant. The choice of examiner is at the participant's discretion

**4. Do you regularly audit the program and if so, how often?**

The DriveSafe NT Program commenced operation in April 2012. The program is reviewed on an as needs basis with continual enhancements to ensure the program meets the community's needs. Previous reviews of the program have resulted in:

- introduction of an online participants and instructors monitoring and evaluation tool;
- individual programs for urban and remote participants;
- participants enrolling with an existing learner's license will no longer need to wait a minimum of five months before doing the provisional license test;
- the program is being extended to participants 25+ (previous age group targeted were 16-25 year olds); and

- additional educational tools are being developed including visual aids to assist with face to face presentations.

Auditing of third party providers is undertaken randomly and regularly by the Department using recorded camera footage and the assessment sheets.