



Program reduces road toll

A PROGRAM aimed at reducing the disproportionately high fatality rates among young Queensland drivers was launched last Friday.

After a successful pilot last year, the 2009 version of the Leighton Contractors' Youth Drive Safe Initiative will give 625 school-based learner licence holders, or those eligible for a learner licence, from Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture and Townsville five hours of free learner driver training in a bid to promote road safety.

Last year, Queensland road users aged 17-24 accounted for 22 per cent of the state's road toll.

This was despite that age group representing only 12 per cent of the population.

Leighton Contractors strategic development manager Renaye Peters said that statistic made the second instalment of the initiative a necessity.

"It's about improving the understanding and responsibility young drivers take on when they get their learner licence," said Ms Peters, whose construction group is carrying out the Ipswich/Logan interchange upgrade on the Ipswich Motorway.

"We hope the kids get some great skills and share them with their peers.

"One parent involved in the pilot said 'even if this program saves one life. it's worth it.'"