



Program helps cut road toll

A PROGRAM aimed at reducing the disproportionately high fatality rates among young Queensland drivers was launched during the school holidays.

After a successful pilot last year, the 2009 version of the Leighton Contractors' Youth Drive Safe Initiative will give 625 school-based learner license holders - or those eligible for a learner license - 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, despite representing just 12 per cent of the population.

Leighton Contractors strategic development manager Renaye Peters said the statistic made the initiative a necessity.

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

"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'."