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Drive to cut young adult road deaths

A PROGRAM aimed at reducing the disproportionately high fatality rates among young Queensland drivers is underway.

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.

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.

That statistic, Leighton Contractors strategic development manager Renaye Peters said, 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's license," she said.

Ms Peters, whose construction group is carrying out the Ipswich/Logan interchange upgrade on the Ipswich Motorway, said she

hoped the students would share their new skills with their peers.

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

worth it,'" she said.

Morayfield State High School's Sara Hines, who was a member of the pilot group, said she was now a safer driver.



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■ Safety first . . . Renaye Peters, strategic development manager Leightons with Mabel Park State High student Richard Grant at the launch of Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe initiative.