

# Media release

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## Young drivers buckle up for road safety

More than 1,600 young Queensland drivers will be safer behind the wheel thanks to a unique road safety initiative for high school students launching for the third year.

Another 625 drive safe packages will be given to learner drivers in Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe Initiative in 2010. Since 2008 more than 1,200 students have clocked up in excess of 6,000 hours of learner driver training.

The tailored learner driver program for young Queensland drivers aims to reduce the youth road toll by addressing road safety issues including perception and reaction responses, road rules and crash avoidance.

The 2010 Brisbane program will be officially launched by Leighton Contractors and the Minister for Transport and Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan MP on Friday June 18 at Bremer State High School.

Darren Weir, General Manager of Leighton Contractors Northern Region (Queensland, Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea) said the free training aimed to address the leading cause of death among young Australians – motor vehicle crashes.

“72 drivers between the ages of 17 and 24 died on Queensland roads in 2009, so our intention is that the Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe initiative will help reduce the likelihood of the participating students being involved in a road crash in the future,” Mr Weir said.

“Now in its third year, the training has been refined so that it provides students with the best possible vehicle driving skills, road safety education and highly skilled driver instructors.

“The most common misconception that young drivers have is that ‘it will never happen to me’, which can create a sense of over-confidence and risk-taking when they are behind the wheel.

“And with more distractions than ever for young drivers like mobile phones, iPods and GPS’s, it is vital that we give them as much preparation as possible for when they get their licence and hit the road.”

Queensland Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan said more and more students were benefiting from the campaign.

“Since launching the Youth Drive Safe Initiative in 2008, more than 1,200 learner drivers from 16 high schools throughout the State have benefitted from this free tailored training,” Ms Nolan said.

“The safety of young drivers on Queensland roads is not just the responsibility of government, but the private sector and each and every young driver every time they take the wheel.

“This worthwhile campaign driven by Leighton Contractors continues to address the serious issue of road safety.”

The 2010 Youth Drive Safe Initiative training will kick off in July and run through to December with up to 625 high school students from Brisbane and across the state taking part in the five one hour professional driving lessons.

The Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe Initiative aims to create safer drivers, safer roads and safer communities, by equipping school-based learner drivers with essential knowledge, practical skills and on-road experience to set them on-course to a long and safe driving future.

For more information about the Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe Initiative visit [www.leightondrivesafe.com.au](http://www.leightondrivesafe.com.au).

## **ENDS**

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## **About Leighton Contractors**

Leighton Contractors is one of Australia's leading contracting and project development groups with approximately \$8.8 billion work in hand, employing more than 9,000 people across Australia and New Zealand.

The company services clients across a range of industries and sectors including resources, construction, telecommunications, energy, infrastructure and facility management.