

Cutting the carnage

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22 JUN 10 @ 08:43AM BY BRENT O'NEILL



Leighton Contractors general manager Darren Weir and Bremer State High School student Lucy Christensen.

YOUNG Ipswich drivers will again benefit from Leighton Contractors' Youth Drive Safe Initiative in 2010, with the third year of the program officially launched at Bremer State High School on Friday.

The learner-driver program aims to reduce the youth road toll by addressing road safety issues such as perception and reaction response, road rules and crash avoidance.

In total, 625 drive safe packages, including five one-hour professional driving lessons, will this year be given to learner drivers in 17 high schools across the state.

Leighton Contractors Northern Region general manager Darren Weir said the training aimed to address the leading cause of death among young Australians motor vehicle crashes.

"In 2009, 72 drivers between the ages of 17 and 24 died on Queensland roads. Our intention is that the initiative will help reduce the likelihood of the participating students being involved in a road crash in the future," he said.

Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan, who attended Friday's launch, said the program "addresses the serious issue of road safety".

Bundamba State Secondary College and Bremer and Ipswich State High Schools are among the 17 schools taking part.

Training will begin next month and run until December.

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