

EDUCATION



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EAGER: Driving instructor Letisha Evers with students Brenden Stevens and Ashley Lake.

Saving young lives

FERNY Grove learner drivers will be a little bit safer on the roads with the launch of the 2010 Leighton Contractors Youth Drive Safe Initiative.

The tailored learner driver program is aimed at reducing the youth road toll by addressing road safety issues, hazard perception and reaction responses in young drivers.

Darren Weir, general manager of Leighton Contrac-

tors northern region, said the free training was to address the leading cause of death among young people.

“Seventy-two 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 to reduce the likelihood of the participating students being involved in a road crash in the future,” Mr Weir said.

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

Mr Weir said driver distractions were also a big issue for young drivers and it was vital students had as much practice as possible before they were issued their licences.