

## CASE STUDY THREE

### Semi-Rural program supporting disadvantaged young people

This program is centred around a semi-rural region outside a major city centre that has pockets of communities that would be classed as 'disadvantaged'. It is evident to the local employment service that many young people living there are having trouble accessing work and education opportunities because of the distance and poor public transport connections.

Young people who apply for this program are prioritised in order of need and whether or not they have the supports at home to help them gain their on-road driving experience. The program limits their intake to those aged between 17 and 25 who already have their Ls and they pay a small percentage of their fortnightly benefits to subsidise the program and also increase commitment to their driving sessions.

Sponsorship from the local car dealership means that the car itself and its maintenance is taken care of. When not in use, the car is kept at the employment service with petrol and insurance costs supported by program funding.

Volunteer mentors are recruited from local community groups, which can be a challenge at times. Demand definitely outstrips supply, as there is quite a waiting list of young people wanting to participate, but not enough volunteers to cover all the hours needed.

To help supplement the required hours for young people, the program helps them apply for a free Safer Drivers Course (if eligible) through Transport for NSW and enrolls them in the Keys 2 Drive program with their volunteer.

Volunteers receive comprehensive training including how to engage effectively with young people, the structures and aims of the program itself, road safety, the GLS and low-risk driving.