



MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday, 28 November



New program to help learner drivers clock up their hours

A new program for learner drivers who need help clocking up the required number of supervised hours to gain their provisional licence will be launched this week.

The City of Marion has partnered with HYPA (Helping Young People Achieve) to deliver the Geared2Drive program, which aims to promote safe driving, create employment opportunities and improve access to community facilities.

The program sees volunteer drivers supervise young people and new arrivals who don't have a family member or friend to accompany them while they gain the required 75 hours' experience for a licence.

Mayor Kris Hanna said *Geared2Drive* would help learner drivers in the Marion region overcome the challenges of securing a licence.

"*Geared2Drive* removes barriers for young people and new arrivals to gain their driving licences," Mr Hanna said.

"Being able to drive increases a person's chances of finding a job and helps them be part of their community.

"We are seeking 12 participants. We would also like to hear from people interested in being a volunteer driving supervisor."

Eligible participants will pay just \$10 for one hour of supervised driving with a volunteer. An hour long lesson through a driving school could cost from \$60 to \$120.

Driving hours will be undertaken in a Holden Barina provided by HYPA.

Volunteers must have been driving for at least two years, be able to commit to three hours per week, and not have any recent driving disqualifications. Clearances and training are provided.

Participants must be between the age of 16 and 25, or be a new-arrival to Australia of any age, hold an Australian Learner's Permit, have no other means of access to a supervising driver and have completed a minimum of five professional driving lessons.

Anyone interested in participating or volunteering can contact HYPA on 8405 8540.

Photo opportunity: Participant with badged vehicle.

Contact: Craig Clarke, Unit Manager Communications, City of Marion, 0434 600 637



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ABOUT HYPA:

HYPA (Helping Young People Achieve) is the youth services division of SYC, a not for profit organisation centred on employment, education and youth services. With a core purpose to positively affect the lives of people in need, last year SYC helped more than 61,000 people in the areas of Home, Wellbeing, Learning and Working.

HYPA provides a wide range of support to young people to find and harness their talent for a positive future. It has supported many thousands of young people since its inception in September 1958, helping them to access and maintain safe and appropriate accommodation, to reconnect with family, school, employment and the community.

www.hypa.net.au

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