

RACV's New Arrivals Road Safety Program: Helping the New Migrant Community

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Many people who settle in Victoria on humanitarian grounds come from countries that do not have a developed transport infrastructure. There has been concern within the road safety community that new migrants face challenges in learning to drive and being safe road users. Consequently, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Royal Automotive Club of Victoria (RACV) commissioned research to learn more about the road safety issues facing new arrivals. Although the research found that new arrivals' self reported behaviours are generally consistent with the Victorian population, the ability to access and afford driving lessons was identified as a key issue. As a result, the RACV developed the New Arrival Road Safety Program, which is jointly funded by the TAC.

The Program

The New Arrival Road Safety Program was launched in April 2012 and aims to support newly arrived migrants gain experience and training on the road so they can gain a drivers licence and drive safely. Applications were invited from Victorian non-profit community groups or organisations that have an existing road safety program for new migrants. The funding was designed to complement an existing road safety program. Successful community groups received \$2,000 funding to be used with the RACV Drive School. Community groups could use the funding for lessons for learner drivers, tuition for volunteer supervisor drivers, and/or road safety presentations from a drive school instructor.

Results

A total of 13 community groups applied for the funding. All 13 applicants met the eligibility criteria and were assessed by RACV as suitable to receive funding. A total of \$26,000 in funding was provided to the community groups.

Of the 13 groups,

- Five groups will use the funding for driving lessons for learners only
- Four groups will use the funding for driving lessons for learners and road safety presentations
- Two groups will use the funding for driving lessons for learners, tuition for volunteer supervisor drivers, and road safety presentations
- One group will use the funding for tuition of volunteer supervisor drivers only

- One group will use the funding for driving lessons and tuition for volunteer supervisor drivers

Conclusion

As a result of the funding, it is estimated that the RACV Drive School will provide approximately 620 driving lessons or equivalent to newly arrived migrants. The experiences from the first round of funding offered will guide the future development of the New Arrival Road Safety Program.

Keywords

New arrivals, community groups, road safety programs