

PCP Integrated Health Promotion

Details of PCP contact

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Identified Partners

Partner Organisation	Roles and responsibilities with regard to the project	Contact person details (name, position)
Workways Morwell	Auspice the planning committee, administers program on a day to day basis, reports to funding body TAC, banker of funds once program commenced, covers insurance for project.	Robyn Savige, Administration Assistant
RoadSafe Victoria	Initial banker during planning stage, part of planning committee.	Alana McCallum, Road Safety Coordinator.
Latrobe Community Health Service	Part of planning committee, evaluation of program.	Barbra Radley, Health Promotion Officer. (author)
Victoria Police	Ran road rules theory classes, part of planning committee.	David Watson, Sergeant.

Case Study Title	Latrobe Valley Newly Arrived Driver Education program
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Summary/Abstract (200 words)

The Latrobe Valley Newly Arrived Driver Education program (LVNADE) was developed in response to feedback from community members and local organisations concerning inequity issues faced by newly arrived refugees in obtaining their Victoria Drivers License.

LVNADE focuses on road rules education, safe driver training and capacity building for newly arrived refugees who already hold a valid Learner Driver's Permit. The project consists of two components, theory training and driver practice mentoring. Theory training provides educational sessions on road rules over six weeks.

After the theory training participants undergo safe driving practice with a community volunteer mentor driver (Mentors) in a program vehicle. The mentor driving practice aims to equip participants with the necessary safe driving skills to pass the Probationary Licence test.

The program aims to make a positive contribution to the individual's capacity building, social inclusion, self esteem, mental wellbeing and smooth transition into the Australian community. Evaluation has shown an increase in knowledge for the participants that have completed the theory sessions, the donation of the driver mentoring vehicle and the recruitment of five mentor drivers.

Background

Name of Project	Latrobe New Arrivals Driver Education Program
Priority goal	To increase social connectedness and assist new arrival refugees settling within Latrobe Valley to become safer road users and thereby contributing to a reduction in the state level of road trauma.
Priority issue(s)	Over the past couple of years there has been an increase of Sudanese families relocating to the Latrobe region. Agencies have expressed concerns that there is inequity issues with refugees obtaining a Victorian license and that there is a need to reduce the barriers for

	<p>people wishing to obtain their licence.</p> <p>Various event organisers and community groups/agencies identified the majority of newly arrived community members were experiencing social isolation and transport barriers were recognised as one of the underlying social determinant factors affecting their lack of participation in appointments or activities.</p> <p>Newly arrived community members report finding it difficult to integrate and participate in the local community and community activities and daily tasks without transport assistance. Professionals from various organisations and community groups have expressed concern that many newly arrived community members are not accessing services and many rely on agency workers and volunteers to drive them to appointments, shopping etc.</p> <p>This feedback indicated a need for a culturally appropriate driving program that newly arrived refugees could participate in to obtain their licence.</p>
Target group	Refugee and newly arrived (Humanitarian Entrants).
DH IHP expectations 2009-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement integrated health promotion programs that address the health and wellbeing issues of significance to consumers and the broader catchment population, are implemented based on the model of the social determinants of health and consistent with the Integrated Health Promotion kit. • Ensure integrated health promotion practice engages with hard to reach population groups and vulnerable communities. • Embed social equity principles, particularly equity of access, into all levels of engagement from strategic policy to implementation and evaluation. • Demonstrate use of evidenced based interventions. • Embed evaluation practice with the planning and implementation of health promotion. • By June 2012, there will be an increase in social connectedness and mental wellbeing for residents in small towns and neighbourhood renewal areas, refugees and vulnerable communities, those on low incomes, young people and women.
Background	<p>This program was developed after ongoing feedback from Sudanese community members and community agencies that transport is a barrier for the Sudanese community in accessing services and integrating into the community. Another factor was individual driver and passenger safety, along with that of the wider community and a desire to help new arrivals in their settlement into a new country.</p> <p>It was identified that newly arrived refugees do not have the means to obtain the necessary driving practice to skill them up to pass the probationary licence test and have a considerable lack of Victorian Road law knowledge and safe driving skills.</p> <p>The target group come from adverse backgrounds with little or no driving experience. This meant that newly arrived refugees and migrants settling in Latrobe Valley were disadvantaged by their difficulty in accessing driver training and practice for a Victorian probationary Drivers Licence. A planning committee was formed which included representatives from local community organisations who identified transport issues faced by newly arrived and migrants and strategies to overcome them.</p> <p>The Latrobe Valley New Arrivals Education program is a three year two part program comprising of Theory Traffic Law followed by Practical driving using a donated vehicle and volunteer supervisor drivers.</p> <p>Evidence for this intervention came from data pertaining to earlier experiences with Sudanese refugees in settlement areas of Sunshine, Dandenong, Colac, and Wonthaggi which revealed that the target group featured highly in crash statistics and driving offences. After implementing theory road rules classes and driver training in Wonthaggi data showed that a dramatic reduction in offender driving and crashes occurred once participants were exposed to the program (Bass Coast L2P Driver Education Program, 2008).</p> <p>Outcomes for participants in the TOP Gear program included greater ease of getting to their place of education or training, being able to gain employment, being able to seek higher level employment opportunities, greater social contact as they are more mobile and feeling like they have 'succeeded' in what is commonly thought of as a 'coming of age' process in our community. (TOP Gear, Janine Combes, Community focus, November 2006).</p>

The Latrobe Valley Newly Arrived Driver Education program is an objective in the social connectedness and mental well being priority area of the CWGPCP Integrated Health Promotion plan. This objective is part of the CWGPCP strategic priority reducing health inequalities and the strategic goal of improve the health and wellbeing of refugees in Latrobe City.

Objectives

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- Increase social connectedness of newly arrived refugees with each other and the broader community
- To improve participants knowledge of Road Rules and safe driving practices.
- To teach participants safe driving skills to the required standard to pass the Victorian probationary licence test and be safe drivers thereafter.

Project participants

As the targeted refugees are from adverse backgrounds, many experience post traumatic stress syndrome, financial difficulties and language barriers, with little or no driving experience and a considerable lack of Victorian Road Law knowledge and safe driving skills.

The target group generally acknowledges they are under skilled in driving knowledge and practice, however some group members hold a Learners Permits but do not have the means to practice driving as Learners and obtain the hours needed.

After consultation with newly arrived community members and given their willingness to learn, their motivation to empower themselves, their desire to avoid driving crashes and court appearance they were considered a prime group for a proactive initiative and positive influence.

Methodology and approach

In September 2008 numerous Sudanese community members raised their transport concerns to the Linking Latrobe Transport Connections Program and in particular, the community have asked for assistance to gain their car licences. Issues raised include relying on volunteers for weekly shopping and taking them to appointments, inability to take their children to sports or other social events, inability to visit family/friends more readily and the affect on employment opportunities. Furthermore, some Sudanese community members that have gained their licence feel overwhelmed by community reliance on them for transport assistance.

A committee was formed which included partners from RoadSafe Latrobe, Workways Morwell, Lutheran Church, Latrobe Valley Bus Lines, Latrobe City Council, Magistrates Court, Gippsland Multicultural Service, Victoria Police and GippsTafe. After reviewing evidence from similar projects the Latrobe New Arrivals Driver Education Program was developed. Theoretical road law classes and safe driver training with mentor driving supervisors utilising a program vehicle is the main strategies for preparing individuals for their Victorian Probationary Licence Test.

Local Traffic Management Unit Police Officers ran the road rules theory which included an emphasis on speed & speeding, drink & drug driving, fatigue driving, driver distraction, pedestrians & cyclists and country roads. Vehicle roadworthiness along with licensing & registration requirements. Volunteer drivers were sourced from the community to mentor participants in gaining the required hours for their probationary licence.

Activities of program:

- Three sessions for 6 weeks on Theory Road Law and identified driving risks conducted by Victoria Police Latrobe TMU members, for 51 identified learners.
- A visit to an auto mechanics workshop and a VicRoads Licence Testing Office for familiarization.
- Recruit and train volunteer supervising drivers to assist learner drivers in safe driving practices in preparation for their licence test.
- Procure a Program Vehicle for practice driving.
- Prepare program policies and procedures to manage and maintain the project over time.
- Evaluate project.

Evaluation is built into the program, objectives include:

1. To evaluate stakeholder partnerships (process and outcome evaluation)
 2. To determine whether LADP 6 week learner course increased participants knowledge (process and impact evaluation)
 3. To establish if the LADP increased participants driving skills (outcome evaluation)
 4. To establish if the program had a positive contribution to participants capacity building, social inclusion, self esteem and mental well-being (outcome evaluation)
 5. To determine whether the use of driver volunteers was effective in the LADP program (process and outcome evaluation)
 6. To establish whether LADP was effective in decreasing the number of crashes and traffic offences by LADP participants (outcome evaluation)
- The questions used for the evaluation were developed and adopted by the steering committee.

Results

Impacts and outcomes	<p>Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First component - Theory classes ran for a total of 18 weeks of 6 weeks sessions that started in August 2009 and ended in February 2010. A total of 51 community members participated in the theory classes. • Second component –Supervised learner driving sessions are due to start in November 2010. <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at July 2009, 51 registered individuals willing to engage in the program. They want to become safe drivers/road users. • A program vehicle has been donated by Valley Ford • Five mentors have been recruited <p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For this reporting period objective two of the evaluation objectives have been completed with participants. • Telephone interviews were conducted with 10 participants from the first two theory sessions. • Results show that all participants said that they had gained good knowledge of the Victorian Road Rules and the classes provided a place to meet new people. • Evaluation on driving mentoring lessons will occur when the sessions have started in November 2010.
Status and sustainability	<p>Funding for the project was sought from the Transport Accident Commission Community Road Safety Grants. Future funding may be obtained from RoadSafety Council Funding (12 monthly) ongoing upon application.</p> <p>Other funding sources such as Local Government Community Project Grants, Multicultural Commission of Victoria Community Grants, other funding bodies and foundations. Community Sponsorships from Service Clubs and Gaming outlets.</p> <p>Valley Ford has donated a brand new vehicle to be used for the driver mentor program. Mentor drivers have been recruited.</p> <p>A memorandum has been developed for partner agencies, outlining roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>An activity of the planning group is to prepare program policies and procedures to manage and maintain the project.</p>

Conclusions

The Latrobe New Arrivals Driver Education Program aims to assist newly settled refugees and immigrants into Latrobe Valley to become safe competent and courteous road users with a heightened awareness of road safety. Without

programs similar to this refugee groups do not have the means to obtain the necessary driving practice to skill them up to pass the Probationary Licence Test.

Although the program is not completed as yet it has achieved many successes including good attendance rates by newly arrived community members, building partnerships with organisations, obtaining volunteer mentor drivers and local businesses supporting program by donating a brand new vehicle.

A limitation of the program is that it is only available to community members who already hold a learner's permit. In future it would be beneficial to allow participants to gain their learners through the program then go onto the theory and driver mentoring components.

Evaluation tools were developed by LCHS and will be reviewed along with the method of delivery regularly. Using evaluation tools that are culturally appropriate is essential for the findings to be an accurate representation of program.

References (optional)

Bass Coast L2P Driver Education Program, 2008, www.seats.org.au/ppt/BassCoastL2P0210.ppt