

6 August 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

'Orana Driver Licence Pilot Program'

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana is pleased to announce that it's *'Orana Driver Licence Pilot Program'* concluded in Gilgandra on Wednesday, 31 July 2013, with some very good outcomes.

The program, which was developed in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Birrang Enterprise Development Company Ltd, Orana Education and Training Co-operative Ltd (OEC), Sureway Employment and Training and Joblink Plus, was created to address the barriers that exist for the young and disadvantaged residing in rural and remote communities, preventing them from obtaining a NSW Drivers Licence.

The seven-week course, which was piloted in Gilgandra NSW, provided participants with access to RTA touch-screen computers, dual controlled learner driver vehicles and training was delivered by Roads and Maritime Services accredited instructors, provided by Birrang Enterprise Development Company Ltd. The program also assisted participants with obtaining relevant identification where necessary and arranged management plans for debt that may have been accrued with the State Debt Recovery Office. The additional support provided by the Job Services Australia employment agencies assisted in the finding of employment or accessing education and training, building social inclusion in their communities.

Eighteen people enrolled in the program, with the following outcomes:

Licencing:

- 1 x gained unrestricted licence (full licence)
- 1 x gained provisional 2 licence (Green P's)
- 1 x gained provisional 1 licence (Red P's)
- 8 x gained learners licence
- 2 x Driving Test Bookings – when successful will gain P1 licence
- 1 x Driving Test Booked – when successful will regain full licence
- 1 x person is seeking a restricted work licence through the courts
- 3 x participants joined the course with current learner licence and log book. These participants completed the safe driving course and completed supervised driver lessons
- 30 x in-car lessons have been conducted with the Driving Instructor

Employment and Training:

- 1 x person has gained employment of 20-30 hours per week on a permanent basis
- 1 x person has attended an interview for a receptionist position
- 1 x person has gained casual work with a previous employer due to the fact that he regained a licence
- 1 x person is working on a casual basis but is seeking to be employed on a permanent full time basis

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- 1 x person has the promise of employment if a licence is regained (this was regained on the last day of the course)
- 1 x person is commencing training in Dubbo for 4 days per week
- 1 x person has a second interview for the Australian Defence Forces (Army) next week and required a licence for entry
- More outcomes are expected over weeks to come.

The Jobs Services Australia employment agencies will continue to work with their participants.

Due to the success of the pilot program and high level of interest, the partnership group is currently seeking further funding options with the intention of rolling the program out in other regional towns across the Orana.

For further information, call RDA Orana on 6885 1488 or visit our website at: www.rdaorana.org.au.

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