

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Tuesday, 21 August 2018

## **City supports youth driver development program**

The City of Bunbury Regional Library is excited to announce it will be hosting a mentoring program for young regional drivers.

The Regional Youth Development Education (RYDE) program provides young people the opportunity to complete their 50 hours of supervised driving experience with one of the program's volunteer driving mentors.

On Friday 24 August the City of Bunbury will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Youth Driver Development Program Incorporated so they can deliver the RYDE program from the Bunbury Regional Library.

The MOU outlines the agreement between both parties for the following 12 months and will be reviewed annually. The program will operate out of the Bunbury Regional Library where young people will have the opportunity to access the program.

RYDE was developed in response to the difficulties faced by young people in completing the 50 hours of driving experience now required for a Western Australian Driver's Licence.

This might be because they haven't got access to an appropriate vehicle, or a qualified person to spend all of those hours in the passenger seat. The RYDE program will connect learner drivers with volunteer mentors and a program vehicle, so that they can get their licence and all of the opportunities that come with it.

The RYDE program seeks to use technology in the areas of; induction, communication, bookings, payments and risk management to deliver a sustainable program model. This technology will now be accessible at the library.

Deputy Mayor Jaysen Miguel said the City was proud to support such an important initiative.

"Obtaining a driver's licence is a rite-of-passage for our young people and unfortunately for some it is difficult to meet the 50 hours of driving experience required," Cr Miguel said.

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“The RYDE program is a great way to help these young people achieve this important milestone.”

The program is expected to launch mid to late October.

For more information please visit <https://ryde.org.au/>

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:** All media are invited to attend the signing of the MOU at the Bunbury Regional Library on Friday 24 August at 9.30am. Please email [ggolding@bunbury.wa.gov.au](mailto:ggolding@bunbury.wa.gov.au) if you wish to attend.

**ENDS**



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