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Youth program wins award

The road safety education program RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) has been awarded the Queensland Road Safety Award - Community by Minister for Transport, Rachel Nolan.

The award aims to recognise successful road initiatives and encourage greater commitment to road safety.

Paul Stathers, director of SHEQ (Safety, Health and Environmental Quality) at BOC, said, "We would like to congratulate the team at RYDA and all the Rotary volunteers in Queensland who have helped contribute to its ongoing success. This award is certainly a well deserved recognition of the fantastic work that RYDA has already achieved."

"RYDA has been operating in Queensland for about 18 months and already over 2000 students from Mackay, Whitsundays, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane have participated in the one-day program," Mr Stathers said.

The local Rotary club hosted RYDA for Year 11 students for the first time at the start of the year and plans to host it again early next year.

Greg Cantwell, RYDA's director of Operations said the program aimed to ensure that when young people started driving, they had already received the best driver safety education possible.

"The program is unique as it attempts to influence attitudes and behaviours of both drivers and passengers before they get their licence."

The six-session day covers a broad range of topics including hazard perception, safe stopping distances, insurance and tips for buying a car, all aimed at influencing the attitude of young people before they get behind the wheel of a car.