



# Support for youth driver education

## RYDA program supported by NRMA grant

Young drivers on the Sunshine Coast could be safer and more sensible at the wheel, thanks to the Caloundra Rotary Club and NRMA Insurance.

The club received a \$5000 grant from NRMA Insurance to kick-start the Rotary Youth Drivers Awareness (RYDA) program on the Sunshine Coast and help shape young people's attitudes to driving before they hit the road.

The one-day course will be offered to around 500 Year 11 students in June.

Caloundra Rotary youth services director Derek Hicks said the program was aimed at

safer roads for all residents.

"If we can save one life or serious injury by reaching out to just one person, our mission would be achieved," Mr Hicks said.

Mr Hicks said more than 100,000 students in other states had participated in the RYDA program.

"Our club was contacted by several teachers who had transferred from

Sydney, where they had seen the benefits of the program," he said.

"We've had a spate of road accidents involving young drivers in our region in recent years, including two triple fatalities. The NRMA Insurance grant has helped us cover the cost of bringing the RYDA program to

Sunshine Coast kids."

RYDA participants interact with police, driving instructors, recovering crash survivors, and drug

and alcohol educators.

They also learn about peer pressure in cars, common causes of collisions, safe stopping distances and other key driving factors in a non-lecture environment.

NRMA Insurance is providing grants of up to \$5000 to Queensland community groups being pro-active in the areas of crime prevention, road safety, emergency readiness and response, and reducing the impact of carbon emissions.

Applications close on March 31.

Visit [www.nrmaqlld.com.au](http://www.nrmaqlld.com.au).



Cassy Allatt, left, Abbie Ackerman and Peter Nelson.

