




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville, Police Resources; LearnIt

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.05 pm): It is interesting to follow on from the previous speaker, who talked about police. We delivered 103 police for Townsville. In 2017, the LNP had zero police for Townsville. The LNP is misleading the people of Townsville with its rubbish alternative policies.

I rise to inform members of a fantastic local program that aims to provide young people with help to gain a driver's licence, which assists them in a number of ways, such as helping them to gain employment. The program is called LearnIt and it is directly related to the Drivelt program, which everyone knows that I am pretty passionate about.

Today at lunchtime Mark Bailey, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, along with the team from LearnIt, made an exciting announcement. We have a couple of people from LearnIt in the audience. I know that local media will be excited about this announcement, because LearnIt's funding was due to expire in December this year. Today, we announced \$300,000 in ongoing funding to keep the LearnIt program going. I thank very much the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for responding to my advocacy for this program.

I acknowledge in the public gallery Mr Murray Holm, who delivers the LearnIt program, and who has facilitated this program for the past 18 months. He is not alone. I also acknowledge Pat Driscoll from Drivelt, who is in the audience. I thank him very much for his advocacy in supporting young people to get employment through this program. Murray has been running this program for a very long time. It is great work and I commend them for it.

LearnIt is a youth mentoring program that is auspiced by Queensland Youth Services. I also acknowledge the work of the 73 volunteers who give up their time to mentor young learner drivers. Without their contribution, the 55 young people who were engaged in the program over the past 18 months would not have gained their licence.

I also thank Pickerings Auto Group, which donated two vehicles that are on display here today, and the many sponsors, such as the Graduate School of Motoring, Caltex and many others. The learner driver mentor program is designed to assist pre-learner and learner drivers who do not have access to a suitable vehicle or supervisor to obtain their learner's permit and the required hours to gain their provisional licence. Overall, amazingly, \$80,000 has been donated in kind with 10 local businesses involved.

So far, LearnIt has provided 2,500 mentor hours and 800-plus on-road lessons. Fifty-five clients have been engaged, 12 exemptions have been granted, 25 practical tests have been passed and there have been nine employment outcomes. I know that the team from LearnIt are working with many other people in Townsville, such as those in the multicultural community, to try to help them gain their licences as well. I want to give a great big thankyou to the work that the team has put together in Townsville. They should be commended for their work.