

# A drive to help kids

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A MORNINGSIDE-based youth driver awareness group drove home with a major gong from the Queensland Road Safety Awards in Brisbane last month.

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) won the community award category for its role in saving lives through educating young people about road safety.

The program, in the form of a day-long course, is aimed at year 11 students and covers topics including stopping distances and the common cause of accidents.

Students also receive talks from local police, driver trainers, and car crash survivors.

"The survivors tell the story of their accident and what life is like now, that can be quite confronting for students but they can see what the reality really is," RYDA state manager Michael Cullen said.

"Young drivers aged 16-21 represent less than 15 per cent of the driving population but they represent more than 30 per cent of road fatalities.

"That's why the program exists and ultimately if we can affect their attitude and awareness then we might be able to reduce those deaths."

Up to 4000 students have taken part in the program.

■ [www.ryda.org.au](http://www.ryda.org.au)



**DRIVER AWARENESS:**The Spinal Injuries Association's Wayne Horkings and RYDA state manager Michael Cullen.

**Picture:** Richard Walker

RW179537