



Quarterly Network News, Updates & Information

Quick Updates

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 New members can
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Book Now

The 2022 National Hui is on the
 7th and 8th of July

Join Our Workgroups

Government Advocacy & Comms.
 9.30am 3rd Thursday, Monthly

Education in Schools & Employability
 1.30pm 3rd Wednesday, Monthly

For Māori by Māori
 9am 1st Thursday, Monthly

Best Practise programmes & Training
 8.30am 2nd Wednesday, Monthly

Multicultural
 9.30am 4th Friday, Monthly

National Coordinator

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NATIONAL HUI 2022



We are excited to finally be able to provide you with the 2022 Driving Change Network National Hui and Awards programme details.

Our Hui this year has been designed to;

- inform you about what is currently happening in our sector, including further information about government funding, proposed changes to the GDLS and operational improvements to bookings and testing systems.
- give you the opportunity to talk with senior Waka Kotahi, MSD and Ministry of Transport team members about concerns or ideas you have to solve current issues.
- provide personal development opportunities and ideas you can take back and use in your programmes.
- allow for valuable networking with people sharing an interest in driver education, licensing and road safety.

Our awards dinner and awards this year celebrate valuable people within our community driver programmes; the i-endorsed driving instructors and our driving mentors and volunteers. More information on awards and nominations are on page 4.

We look forward to seeing you all there in July

Regards

Wendy, Kaylen & the DCN Steering Group

The Thames Community Centre is offering to pay for people's licence test fees, courses and training, and all they ask in return is that people give back by volunteering in the local community. What a great initiative!

The enthusiastic drivers have been volunteering at op shops, Thames High School, Bright Smile Community Gardens and the SPCA to name a few. The results are positive too, participant Shane said "Volunteering was great; I'm still doing it and will till I get a full time job."

Alana and Marama are volunteering at the Thames Community Centre. Both girls have been having driving practices with Thames Community Centre mentors in the Valley Toyota Hybrid.

They are going to sit their restricted licences and are getting practice and mentoring for free thanks to the Thames Community Centre's help.



Meet Stuart, he recently passed his restricted and had practiced driving weekly with mentor Jan for a few months.

To Stuart having his licence means "freedom" and he found the volunteer work "really good, I'm still doing it till I get a job. I got some paid work through it as well."

Thames Community Centre is helping people gain every stage of licence, whilst helping community groups at the same time - now that's a win win situation! The result is independent, safer drivers and increased volunteering within the community. Ka pai.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Driving Change Network welcomes the government announcement that they will support 64,000 people to get their licence over 4 years, with a \$86 million investment into driver training in their upcoming budget.

This support is to be targeted towards those who experience social and financial barriers to getting their licence through government funded driving lessons and tests. Social Development Minister, Carmel Sepuloni, stated that "There are many people in our prisons whose journey to criminal records started with driving fines for driving without a licence. Today is a big step in changing this." Under the announced funding police would refer people who are caught driving without a licence to funded licensing programmes.

You can read the full announcement [here](#).

Our thoughts:

- **Road to Zero**

This announcement is a great step to achieving the government Road to Zero goals, but there needs to be a focus on driver education and training added back into the Road to Zero action plan.

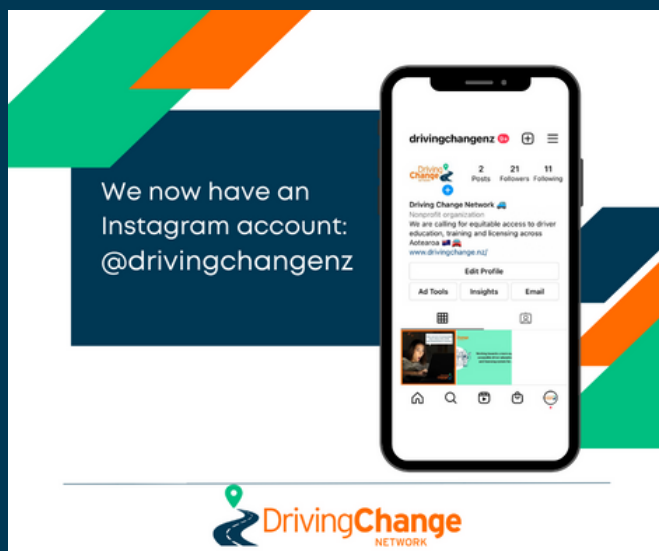
- **Secondary School Education**

We hope that some of this community support will include proactive measures, like providing driver education and training to secondary school age students.

- **Sustainability**

The focus should be on training and long term support (funding) for the diverse community programmes out there. One off programmes/short term initiatives only result in partially trained road users and organisations unable to plan long term, buy vehicles, train instructors or commit to training clients to the end.

**We now have
Instagram!
@drivingchangen**



Road to Zero

The government has removed reference to driver education and training in the current Road to Zero action plan. This plan should include driver training as a priority.



Introducing Kaylen

Tēnā tātou, my name is Kaylen and I am the Social Media Intern. I am currently in my second year of studying a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in Public Relations and Political Science at the University of Waikato.

Currently I'm living in Hamilton but I grew up mostly in the Taranaki. I'm 19, nearly 20 and I am a Swiss Kiwi. I love international relations, reading (Cassandra Clare is my favourite), writing, filming, editing, spending time with friends and family and travelling. I would love to travel around Europe and eat all the delicious food there.

I'm very excited to be working at Driving Change Network and I fully believe in all the work we do here, everyone should have the opportunity to gain their licence. Leaving high school to come to university has really opened my eyes to how vital it is to have a licence. I think having driver's education in schools would be awesome and I really want to help make it happen.

I can't wait to get to know everyone and I'm looking forward to the national hui!

Ngā mihi,
Kaylen Hojdelewicz



Conference Award Nominations Open

We're excited to announce that we will be holding our Conference Awards again for 2022. This year we will be celebrating the wonderful work of our driving instructors and volunteers.

Our awards for Best Community Driver Programme and Best Driver Mentor programme will now be held bi-annually and will be run again in 2023. We will celebrate our staff and volunteers on the alternate years.

The categories are:

- **Best I-Endorsed Driving Instructor**
- **Best Volunteer or Community Mentor**

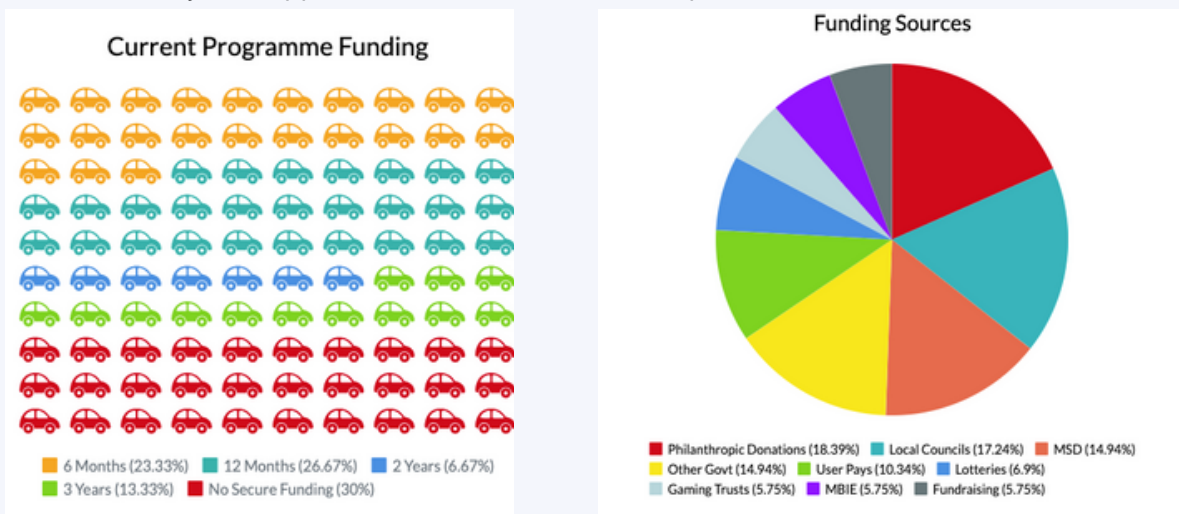


You can nominate your programme super stars [here](#). Entries are open until Friday June 24th 2022.

Member Survey Results

Driving Change exists to create change in Aotearoa's licensing system and make it equitable and accessible for all. More often than not it is our members, the community driver programme providers, who ensure that licensing is equitable for those who cannot achieve this goal on their own.

Currently however, too many providers are facing barriers of their own by way of funding uncertainty. This affects the numbers of clients they can support and the time available to help learner drivers in our communities.



As we suspected 30% of those surveyed currently have no secure funding and are only accepting clients on a user pays basis or as funding permits and a further 23.3% only have funding for the next 6 months. That is 50% of those surveyed who are unable to plan for the future or guarantee clients that they can support them throughout the 18+month GDLS period.

Just 20% of the members who responded had funding for 2 or more years – or a sufficient period of time for a client to go from no licence to their full licence.

This is a huge concern. Given that MSD are shown to be one of our members most common funding sources, we hope that contacts allocated under the new \$86million driver licensing funding pool will address this issue and be for sufficient durations to enable good programme planning and stability.

Member Stories

We need your stories. If you are happy to share a story about your amazing organisation and the work you do to support people to gain their licences in your community, please email kaylen@drivingchange.nz

Getting these stories out is vital so we can provide anecdotal proof of the need in our communities for funding driver education and licensing support. We know how busy everyone is, so we will even phone you and interview you for the story.

We look forward to hearing from you!

2022 NATIONAL HUI & COMMUNITY AWARDS



THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JULY 7-8 2022

Brentwood Hotel
16-20 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington

**\$200 FOR FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE INCLUDING AWARDS
DINNER OR \$150 FOR CONFERENCE ONLY & \$50 FOR DINNER
ONLY**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

www.drivingchange.nz

Licensing fees review

The Driving Change Network has made a submission regarding the proposed changes to driver licence and driver testing fees. We believe that a Class 1 driver licence is more public good than private good, and should be funded accordingly. Here is a brief summary of our recommendations to the government:

- We recognise that there are benefits in removing the test resit fees, but removing resit fees could also increase the burden on an already overloaded testing system through less prepared drivers and people not showing up. We also worry that people will risk failing rather than ensuring they are prepared and engaging a professional driving instructor to ensure this. We suggest the introduction of a flat rate booking fee such as \$15 to discourage this.
- We object to the 23% increase of the restricted licence test. This is the most important step in the GDLS process, a licence that is the first step to driving on your own and increasing employment prospects.
- Consideration should be given to a system that encourages young people to move through the licensing system as soon as possible, by having subsidised fees for those who do, such as an aged based fees system with discounts for youth under the age of 24.
- We have no objection to the increasing of fees relating to endorsements and licence classes other than Class 1 licences as these all serve as private good and hold the benefit of having the benefit of generating an income for the individual licence holder.
- We submit that Land Transport Funding should be used to heavily subsidise the cost of driver licensing fees for Class 1 licences, because the public good of getting people licensed is greater than the private good of this type of licence.