

DriveTime: Supporting refugees in Australia get their Driver's License

A driver's license is an important part of the settlement journey for newly arrived refugees and migrants to help them participate in their community, provide them with access to opportunities and essential services across education, health, social activities, as a pathway to employment.

The **DriveTime** program is a driver licensing program for refugees settling in Australia from Syria, Iran and Iraq. It supports learners to overcome the barriers they face learning to drive in Australia.

In November 2016, Gymea Community Aid and Information Service (GCAIS) entered into a partnership with the NRMA to launch **DriveTime** in Fairfield and Wollongong.

The concept was originally piloted in Sutherland Shire when the Southern Sydney Refugee Support Group received funding from Tradies in Gymea and local businesses to support 5 participants.

The program then received NRMA support for a 6-month pilot, after which they funded an additional two years together with some local organisations.

GCAIS facilitate **DriveTime** on behalf of the NRMA through a dedicated coordinator role. The current funding finishes on 31st December 2019. **Over 120 refugees have gained their NSW Driver's license** through the program with **over 30 going on to gaining employment**.

As at 20th June 2019, there are 50 active learners with another 80 on a waitlist demonstrating the program continues to flourish and service a need within the refugee community.





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NRMA have recently advised a change in their community priorities and will decrease their support by around 60%, equalling approximately \$110,000 per annum.

In addition, DriveTime will lose the use of the two vehicles provided through NRMA and will need to source replacements.

Our challenges are:

- A new partner will need to be aligned to the quality and standards of the NRMA if they are going to co-fund the program. NRMA will work with GCAIS in identifying potential funding partners
- Grant programs generally do not fund the amount required therefore we are looking for new corporate partners
- GCAIS is regarded as a small NFP business and has difficulty attracting attention from large corporates
- Trying to attract corporate funding is time consuming and takes our small staffing component away from our core business of supporting people in need

Proposed Solution

Since 2015 **DriveTime** has grown in numbers of participants and makes a significant impact on the employability of participants.

Continuing **DriveTime** beyond 2019 means:

- Finding funding partner with NRMA
- Approaching local NSW MPs to support **DriveTime**
- Talking to corporate partners, philanthropic trusts/foundations with a focus on refugees, migrants, employment and well-being
- Talking to organisations/faith groups where **DriveTime** recipients are participants to find a joint solution

Therefore, GCAIS is seeking an additional funder to partner with us and NRMA to support the **DriveTime** program. We are also seeking a new vehicle supplier.

To allow GCAIS time to do this, NRMA will extend the funding arrangement to December 2019.

The current **DriveTime** waitlist is long. We know there is a need for this program and without supports to obtain driving licences many refugees and newly arrived migrants will be cut off from employment opportunities.

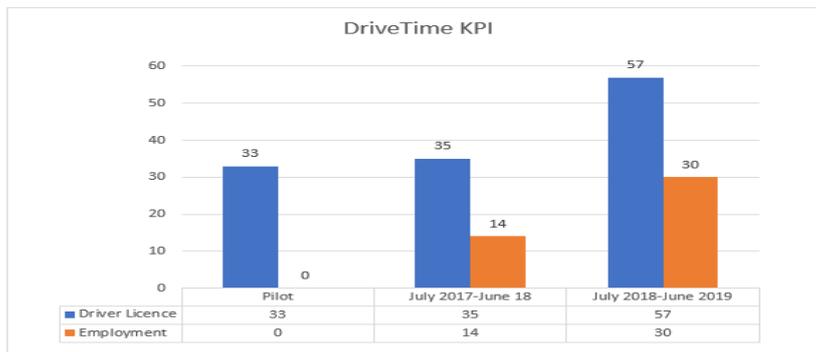


- Identifying an organisation who could include add a **DriveTime** operational role to their structure.



Key Results

period	Driver Licence			Employment		
	Fairfield	Wollongong	Driver Licence	Fairfield	Wollongong	Employment
Pilot	14	19	33			0
July 2017-June 18	15	20	35	8	6	14
July 2018-June 2019	33	24	57	15	15	30
July 2019- June2020			0			0
Total	62	63	125	Total	23	44



Number of driver's licenses achieved and those who also gained employment

Number of driver's licenses by gender and area since 2017. Referrals YTD FY 2019-2020 are also listed.

Grand Total Fairfield & Wollongong													
Period	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male		Iraqi	Syria	others	Total	Iraqi	Syria	Others
Pilot	11	22	33	33%	67%		18	15	0	33	55%	45%	0%
2017-18	11	24	35	31%	69%		21	14	0	35	60%	40%	0%
2018-19	65	14	79	82%	18%		42	35	2	79	53%	44%	3%
2019-20	57	15	72	79%	21%		23	39	10	72	32%	54%	14%
Total	144	75	219				104	103	12	219			

