

Lifting barriers to regain a licence

The Work and Development Order Service is working with the Birrang Enterprise Development Company driver training program to give people in remote and rural areas the opportunity to obtain a drivers licence.



Brett Naden trains a participant in one of the cars that Birrang use to assist people to obtain their licence.

Not having a licence makes it so much harder for people to find employment and access services.

The program was developed to remove key barriers to licencing; including literacy and numeracy difficulties, financial difficulties, proof of identity as well as issues with unpaid fines.

Birrang became a Work and Development Order sponsor to assist their clients remove Roads and Maritime Services sanctions that block licencing. Lynne Worrall, Naomi Scrimshaw and Kim Reid from the Legal Aid/Aboriginal Legal Service Work and Development Order Service have worked closely with Birrang over the last 12 months, attending driver training days and providing legal advice and minor assistance to clients with fines debt and general civil law problems.

“Having Legal Aid staff at our sign up days is great, they deal direct with State Debt Recovery which speeds up

registration and makes our clients feel at ease – everything is explained in an easy and understandable way,” says driver trainer Brett Naden.

Since becoming a WDO sponsor, Birrang has supported over 120 people through the WDO Scheme. They are currently managing in excess of \$185,000 of fines debt. “As each barrier is lifted, a person’s confidence soars, and gaining a licence, something many

of our clients could only dream of before the program, suddenly becomes a reality,” says Brett.

In the past 18 months, Birrang’s driver programs have delivered 458 new licences amongst indigenous and disadvantaged people in NSW.

Lynne Worrall
Work and Development Order Service



Kim Reid, WDO Field Officer from the Aboriginal Legal Service Bathurst (back, third from right) and Naomi Scrimshaw (seated far right) from Legal Aid Orange attended the Birrang Driver Training Course in Wellington to assist the participants with Work and Development Orders.