

# Driving start, living smart

A new programme is being rolled out in Laverton to target disengaged and disadvantaged youth through the Keys 4 Life driver preparation initiative organised by the Laverton Leonora Cross Cultural Association (LLCCA), of which AngloGold Ashanti Australia is a member.

It is envisaged that about 30 young people will take part in the programme and Tim Prentice, an ex-AngloGold Ashanti community relations employee, will coordinate and deliver the initiative.

The programme is aimed at young people from the age of 14 through to those in their early 20s, providing the background knowledge and skills for the participants to gain their Learners Permit.

They will also gain foundation skills including drug and alcohol awareness, knowledge about personal health and wellbeing, personal safety, how to avoid risk taking behaviours and how to deal with peer pressure and drug and alcohol use. They will learn about driver responsibility and safe driving skills, progressing to gaining their driver's licences if they are 16 years or older.

AGAA was instrumental in securing funding for the 2014 programme, which will also be complimented by a driver training programme.

With one of the highest incarceration rates per head of population in Western Australia, the Shire of Laverton services a large transient population.

The town itself, which is located 55 kilometres north of AGAA's Sunrise Dam Gold Mine, has been without a local fresh food store for more than two years and hasn't had a resident doctor for almost three years.

In this situation, it is no surprise that access to a service such as preparation for driving and driver training has simply not been available for many years.

The flow-on of detrimental social effects came to AGAA's attention following talks with the local police who explained that around 65% of police charges logged in the area were related to driving or vehicle offences, and of these, a large portion was simply due to a lack of current driver's license.

The LLCCA is a registered charitable organisation which has been operating in the North Eastern Goldfields since 1997 as a tripartite partnership between Aboriginal organisations, mining companies and government agencies to build relationships between cultures based on mutual respect, to build capacity in the community and to improve education, training and employment outcomes for local people including Aboriginal people in the area.

AGAA was a founding member of the organisation and continues to be active on the LLCCA board.