



# BRAKE

## Project

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After a final evaluation, they may have finished the course but they are not on their own.

“We’ll follow up the program and encourage them to maintain contact until they’re 25,” said Sergeant Duncan.

“They don’t have to respond and we don’t expect them to but the opportunity is always there.

“The important thing is that by participating in the course families and young drivers are putting road safety back on the table for frank discussion and awareness.”

With the backing of Beaudesert Shire Council, Queensland Transport, Queensland Ambulance and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service the program is now familiar to students at all five public and private schools in Beaudesert as well as schools at Robina and Elanora.

Next year four schools on the Gold Coast, four in Ipswich and two in the Logan area are expected to come into the program.

“There is no shortage of community interest or of willing volunteers,” Sergeant Duncan said.

“The real problem is finding major corporate support – we need to be able to offer volunteers more support.”

Corporate interest may not be far away thanks to an unexpected surge of interest in the project from interstate schools in New South Wales and Western Australia and even more welcome enquiries from 36 nations around the globe.

“We’ve had requests for more information from schools across Europe, the United Kingdom, United States and New Zealand,” Sergeant Duncan said.

Meanwhile the project is being evaluated by Griffith University which is also assisting with research and the development of audio visual accessories.

The university’s findings will no doubt contribute significantly to answering interest in the program and Sergeant Duncan is convinced the long-term outcomes will be dramatic.

“Whatever we can do to make our young kids safer, more responsible drivers is bound to have profound outcomes for our community,” he said.



A Jimboomba Police Sergeant’s innovative plan to steer young drivers towards safer behaviour on our roads is enjoying an unexpected wave of international support.

BRAKE an acronym for Behaviour, Risk, Attitude, Knowledge and Education started out as a local community project initiated by Sergeant Rob Duncan who felt compelled to take a stand

against the rising toll of injury and death among younger, inexperienced drivers.

His plan, devised in 2005, was to create a five stage driver education program that drew support from schools and family of young people who were about to obtain their licence to drive.

It starts in the schools but parents or carers are equally involved in reinforcing the safe driving message.

The drivers themselves go through the government required supervised driving stage but after obtaining their license the program stays with them for a further six months.