



Local Area Commander
Greater Shepparton Police Service Area
155 Welsford Street
Shepparton 3630
Victoria, Australia

The Secretary,

Dear Sir/Madam,



I am writing to extend your club an invitation to attend the next **‘Cool Heads – Young Driver Program’**, to be held at the Eastbank Centre; Welsford Street, Shepparton, on Wednesday, the 19th of July, 2017, with a recommended arrival of 6.30pm for a 7.00 pm start.

Local police developed the ‘Cool Heads’ program in 2008. The goal remains; to remove the devastating trauma caused by fatal and serious injury collisions on local roads. The program does not teach our drivers how to drive; it is designed to highlight the real consequences of distraction and risk taking while driving. It is designed to improve the attitude young people have towards driving and our roads. I am pleased to report that to date over 5,700 young people have attended ‘Cool Heads’ and we have had a significant reduction in the number of our young people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The death of local young sports people on our roads has had a devastating impact on their family, friends, local community and their sporting clubs. The culture within sporting clubs can have both a positive and at times negative impact upon the personal development of young sports people. With this in mind I urge you to encourage your young sports men and women to attend this program. Challenge them, before it is too late, to take the opportunity to make important decisions about their attitudes to driving. The reality is that your 16 to 25 year old members have the highest risk of being killed or seriously injured on our roads.

In recent years some sporting clubs in our area have asked their underage squads to attend the Cool Heads program as a compulsory group session. The feedback received from the attending players, coaches and officials has been extremely positive and I applaud the club’s commitment to their players. It does also bond the group to look after each other both on and off the playing field. I encourage your club to consider a similar approach.

The venue for this program is the Eastbank Centre, which has been generously donated by the Greater Shepparton City Council. The larger venue increases the program's ability to cater for all local sporting clubs to include members in the identified high risk age group.

If club members will be attending we would like to hear about it. Please contact the program coordinator; Senior Constable **Dean Lloyd** on 5820 5870 or email dean.lloyd@police.vic.gov.au

We do not want transport costs to be a deterrent for young people attending our program. If your sporting club is organising a bus for your group to travel together to the program I am pleased to advise we have funding to subsidise your transport cost. Please return the attached application form and the first \$200 of the bus company costs may be provided by the program. **You or the bus company require credit card payment facilities to receive this subsidy.**

The program is also free of charge.

Yours Sincerely,

Haydn Downes

Inspector

Local Area Commander

Greater Shepparton Police Service Area