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NEWS

## Golfers help out with indigenous learner driver program

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NEW INITIATIVE: Ready to launch the new learner driver initiative are (from left) Jack Gibbs, Randal Taylor, Alfred Orcher, Jess Akers, Nikki Spackman, Brian Hewitt and Glenda Knight.

Contributed

TOOWOOMBA Reconciliation Golf Classic committee chair Alfred Orcher says he often is told by people that their child has their learner licence, but they aren't able to support them in learning the ropes.

"The families are not able to support them to complete the 100 hours of driving needed to obtain their licence due to the cost involved or the lack of an appropriate vehicle," he said.

The committee entered into a partnership with Toowoomba Driving School to launch the new learner driver program today, which will allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths participate in learner driver lessons for half the cost.

For the past two years, the golf committee has been running an annual golf event focused on raising the much-needed funds to help support this initiative.

Last the there was three major sponsors, Carbal Medical Centre, Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement and South West Indigenous Network, as well as 144 golfers and more than 50 spectators and supporters.

Carbal Medical Centre CEO Brian Hewitt said he believed the association between the groups would have significant, positive benefits for the many members of the community.

Goolburri's CPU manager Jack Gibbs said as it was becoming a mandatory requirement of employment to have a driver's license, this program would assist in Closing the Gap of access to employment.

If you would like to be involved phone 0417 766 878.

The annual Reconciliation Golf Day will be held on Friday, November 5 at the City Golf Club.

If you'd like to be a sponsor or would like to participate, call Mr Orcher on 0421 132 507.

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