

## Novice drivers targeted in safety DVD

Thursday, 19 June 2008

Dispatched at 08.35am CST

The motoring skills of inexperienced and beginner drivers are being addressed with the introduction of an educational program and DVD package for novice drivers, called *Ignition*.

Produced by the Road Safety Branch of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the DVD covers issues such as driver overconfidence and risk taking, the impact of alcohol and drugs, not wearing seatbelts, fatigue and driver distractions. It also includes a section on the consequences of road trauma.

Chief Executive Officer of the Department, Richard Hancock, said young Territory drivers, particularly novice drivers, have about three times the rate of road crashes and fatalities of older drivers.

“Road crashes are one of the leading causes of death, serious injury and disability among young people,” he said.

“This DVD will be used by teachers in high schools performing driver training, and will be distributed to driver trainers and training organisations.

“Jurisdictions across Australia place high importance on educating novice and young drivers, to counter fatalities and road trauma among these motorists.

“Accidents can happen at any time and to anyone, but if inexperienced drivers are schooled to be road wise, they’ll be less likely to devastate their loved ones by killing themselves or others,” said Mr Hancock.

The 30-minute video includes real life situations discussed in recorded interviews and a simulated crash scene.

### **Media opportunity**

---

The media are invited to meet at Darwin High School on Friday 20 June 2008 at 10.20am for interviews.

Staff and students of the school can only be interviewed with permission of the Principal.