



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 7 December 2011

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MINERS AT PARKES

The peak Occupational Health and Safety body for the State's mining industry, the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC) is today running a road safety workshop for young drivers working in mines around Parkes.

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher said the NSW Government considers health and safety in the mining industry to be a number one priority.

"MSAC is aiming to raise awareness within mining communities that health and safety issues do not stop at the mine gate, and that the high health and safety standards in the NSW mining industry should also transfer to mining communities," Mr Hartcher said.

"This program is about supporting good health and safety practices that employees can use at work and in their everyday lives.

"This is part of MSAC's goal to improve the health and safety culture in the industry and this workshop is a step in that direction."

The workshop, which covers safe driving topics including driving to local conditions and the perils of long distance driving, aims to give young drivers a better understanding of road safety.

"Young mine workers regularly drive long distances and this sort of activity can be associated with fatigue," Mr Hartcher said.

"The complex and related areas of fatigue and hours of work have been identified by the Council as a high priority.

"MSAC is working closely with industry to help manage fatigue, including hosting a successful series of state-wide workshops earlier this year."

Member for Dubbo, Troy Grant said the program is key to promoting sound health and safety principles both within the community and at the mine site.

"Fatigue is an issue at the workplace and on the road," Mr Grant said.

"Safety extends past the mine gate and beyond the workplace.

“Through this program MSAC is promoting workplace health and safety principles to safe driving on the roads.”

The young drivers program was successfully piloted in Cobar last year and included apprentices from the Cobar Mines.

Workshop address: Parkes Leagues Club
192 Clarinda Street, Parkes

When: 8:30 am to 4:00pm, Wednesday 7 December

Photo opportunity: 10:30 am - 10:50 am, Wednesday 7 December

Media: Caroline Hutcherson 0405 455 991