



**HUON
VALLEY
COUNCIL**

MEDIA RELEASE

23 March 2018

We need volunteer mentor drivers in Kingston

The Huon Valley Council's Gearing Up Program needs volunteers to mentor learner drivers in the Kingston, Huon and Channel areas.

The Gearing Up Program is a Community Road Safety Initiative for 16 to 70 year olds with limited access to a supervised driver and/or vehicle who are then matched with a volunteer mentor. Mentors come from all walks of life and can choose what days and times suit them to supervise a learner driver in an automatic Gearing Up vehicle. It is

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor says the Gearing Up Program has made a big difference to the lives of everyone involved.

"Being a driver mentor is a direct way to help people in your community gain independence, increase work eligibility and boost self-esteem.

"We know that in rural and regional areas, the ability to drive offers opportunities to work or study or gain independence. By being able to help more learners attain their license, driver mentors can have a direct impact on the lives of people in the Huon Valley and Kingston.

"Getting your licence is like a rite of passage we take for granted but to our learner drivers it can change their lives. Being a mentor is very rewarding as you are making a real difference to a person's quality of life.

"Obtaining a driver's licence allows local unemployed people in the Huon and Kingborough to be able to attend education and training, job interviews and gain employment.

"I would urge anyone who has the time to volunteer as a driver mentor," Commissioner Taylor said.

Gearing Up is run with the support of the Huon Valley Council and Driver Mentor Training Tasmania. Training and security checks are provided.

**For further information
Adriana Taylor
Huon Valley Council Commissioner
Ph: 03) 6264 0300**

Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council - Ph: (03) 6264 0314

Email: communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au - Web: www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/HuonValley



Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council - Ph: (03) 6264 0314
Email: communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au - Web: www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au
Facebook www.facebook.com/HuonValley