



Young drivers less at RRISK

Young drivers who have attended the RRISK (Reduce Risk Increase Student Knowledge) program which is about to be held again in the Tweed, have a 44 per cent reduced crash risk according to a new study conducted by the George Institute of International Health.

Tweed Shire Council's road safety officer Ray Clark said it is difficult to put that a road safety education program actually makes a difference other than increase in awareness.

"We now know that our RRISK program is actually reducing road trauma," he said.

The RRISK program delivers a one day seminar on strategies for reducing the impacts of risk taking to year 11 students in the Northern Region of NSW. RRISK is about to be rolled out to over 3600 students from 48 high schools throughout the Tweed Civic and Cultural Centre on Friday.

Helping young people avoid or manage risks

By JENZ DAVIDSON

A HANDS-ON program, which helps young drivers reduce the risk of being involved in a car accident, is being offered to Year 11 students.

Take risk out of being a teen

The program, RRISK (Reduce Risk Increase Student Knowledge), has been running for 11 years on the Far North Coast, the Mid North Coast, and the South Coast. Independent research of participants who attend the program shows a 44 per cent reduced risk of being involved in a road safety program, according to a new study conducted by the George Institute of International Health.

TAKING a few hours out of their day to learn and drive a car is a RISK. Chris Brutch, a RRISK facilitator and Ray Thomas, a RRISK facilitator, were writing to the Northern Star about the RRISK program.



"Previous evaluations of RRISK found increases in a range of protective behaviours for students who participated in the program. This latest research goes further in endorsing our resilient research approach as a more effective way of designing young driver education programs to reduce injury and death." A unique resilience building feature of RRISK is the training of more than 300 peer facilitators leading up to the RRISK seminars. Students are trained to lead small groups of other students.

DN: Michael of Ballina, a school at his life car crash 15 years ago.

Fatal crash driver, now in a wheelchair, warns schoolies of dangers

gave him an emotional standing ovation

Driving home RRISK message

High school students targeted by drug and alcohol program

By SUSANNA FREYMARK

DON'T abandon your friends on a night out. Plan how to get home together. Look after your mates and know how to handle a drug or alcohol emergency.

More than 3600 students from 48 North Coast high schools will hear these messages, as well as advice on safe driving, in a North Coast program starting today at Southern Cross University in Lismore.

The Reduce Risk, Increase Student Knowledge (RRISK) program rolls out for its 11th year.

RRISK is credited with reducing road crash numbers for young people by 44 per cent, according to DRIVE, Australia's largest study of young drivers involving 20,000 P-plate drivers in NSW.

With the added risk of 20,000 schoolies arriving in the Byron Bay area over a two-week period, the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and

DRIVERS AGED 17-25 YEARS

- Northern Rivers drivers involved in car crashes:
 - 27.1 per cent of all crashes
 - 11.1pc of fatal crashes
 - For drivers of the same ages across NSW:
 - 25.4pc of all crashes
 - 21pc of fatal crashes
- 2009 RTA statistics, for the last nine months

drugs, and knowing how to deal with an accident, is accentuated.

RRISK is described as a 'resilience-focused' program by North Coast Area Health Service alcohol projects co-ordinator Reyna Dight.

"RRISK works because it doesn't only focus on road safety, but looks at risk taking in your social life," she said.

The program includes a one-day seminar with peer training workshops and a scenario of a car accident played out onstage to show young people how to give the



RRISK MANAGEMENT: Helping raise awareness about the dangers of drink-driving through a dramatic enactment of the consequences are police school liaison officer Snr Const Kim Mewing, NCAHS alcohol projects co-ordinator Reyna Dight (right) and Trinity Catholic College Lismore students (from left) Joash Vincent, Anna Higgins, Erica Tarlington and Daini Stephenson (in car).

right information to emergency services. "Young people take risks, it is a part of growing up," Ms Dight said. "Our program helps young people make better decisions." Ms Dight said previous evaluations of RRISK found an increase in a range of protective behaviours from students who participated in the program. RRISK seminars will be held at Southern Cross University until Thursday, with further seminars at Tweed Heads, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.