



Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

25 January 2023

Not the time to axe important road safety initiative

Key2Drive instructors have learnt via text that federal funding for a unique road safety initiative will be axed.

Federal Member for Braddon, Gavin Pearce MP, said that with the national road toll on the rise, now is not the time for the Albanese government to turn its back on road safety.

“I was contacted yesterday by local Burnie driving instructor, Mr Robert Bentley, who said he had just received a text that had directed him to the Keys2Drive website where he was told federal funding for the program will cease on 30 June,” Mr Pearce said.

“This could not come at a worse time. Households are under stress and let’s be realistic, driving lessons are well beyond the capacity of many families. It’s parents who are teaching their kids to drive and this program teaches the parents how to teach their kids correctly. It’s a model that has worked well for over 15-years.”

“Every review into the program over its lifetime has found the program to be of significant value, with the latest best-practice review in 2020 finding that the program consistently met all its guiding principles.”

Mr Bentley said that the Keys2Drive program, which commenced in 2007, was a Tasmanian initiative that has become one of our nation’s largest learner-driver, road-safety programs.

“I was proud to be part of developing the pilot program back in the day, and I’ve been a Keys2Drive instructor ever since,” Mr Bentley said.

“The Keys2Drive program is the only program of its kind that focuses on educating both the learner driver and the driving supervisor – which is normally a parent.”

“Parents are often hesitant to come along initially, but it’s not long before we are all in the car together, learning the right way to do things. The parent is sitting in the back seat, and I can hear them say, ‘I didn’t know that!’. When the parent and the learner driver walk away, they are on the same page.”

Both Mr Pearce and Mr Bentley are seeking an explanation why funding for this program has ceased, the figures that support the withdrawal of funding, and how this decision will not negatively impact driver and road safety in Australia.

Ends