

WOMEN'S DRIVING PROGRAM

For many women, transport barriers including the lack of a driver's licence, limited access to public transport, financial hardship, and caring responsibilities significantly restrict their ability to attend appointments, pursue education, or access employment. These barriers often contribute to social isolation, reduced wellbeing, and ongoing dependence on others.

The WCC Women's Driving Program addresses these challenges by providing culturally safe, trauma-informed, and female-led driving instruction, integrated with tailored settlement, advocacy, and employment support. By removing transport barriers, the program creates clear pathways to economic participation, social inclusion, personal safety, and long-term independence, ultimately strengthening families and communities.

Program Objectives

- Support CALD women to obtain a driver's licence, enabling independence and mobility.
- Improve access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities.
- Build confidence, resilience, and social inclusion through culturally sensitive and trauma-informed approaches.
- Facilitate engagement with community networks, services, and local opportunities.
- Increase women's knowledge of available services and how to access them.
- Empower women experiencing family violence to improve safety and independence.
- Support women to rebuild confidence following experiences of family violence and trauma.
- Provide professional development opportunities for instructors to deliver culturally responsive education.

Program Structure

Stage 1

Initial Assessment and Planning

Participants undertake a comprehensive assessment, attend a learner permit refresher course, and an individualised learning plan is developed to guide their driving journey.

Stage 2

Theory and Knowledge Preparation

Participants learn road rules and traffic safety using in-language resource via online group sessions and one-on-one mentoring.

Stage 3

Practical Driving Lessons

Lessons are delivered by female instructors using trauma-informed and culturally safe practices.

Stage 4

Learner Licence Assessment

Participants are guided through the assessment process, and targeted support is provided to address test anxiety and language barriers.

Stage 5

Probationary Licence and Independent Driving

Women progress towards independent driving. Ongoing support is available for workplace requirements, further training, referrals, and connection to additional services.



WOMEN'S DRIVING PROGRAM

Key Statistics 2023 - 2025

2,543

Driving Lessons Provided

565

Program Participants

1,100+

Outgoing Referrals Provided

367

Participants Obtained Probationary Licenses

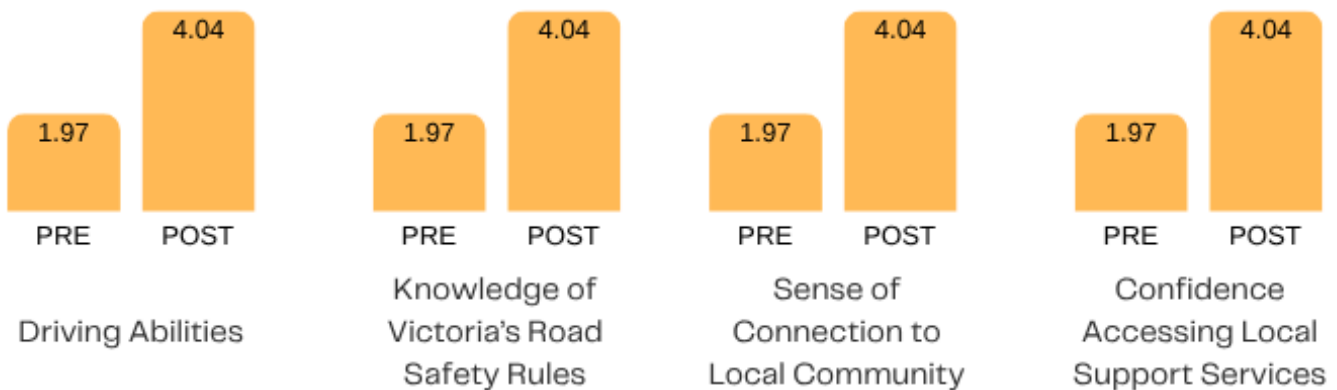
95%

Participants Satisfied With Program Experience Overall

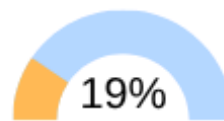
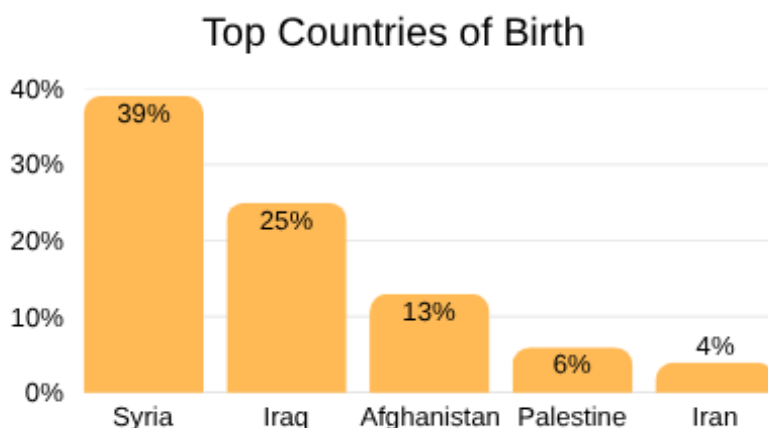
82

Organisations/Programs Referred To

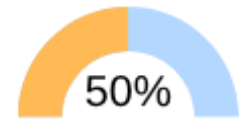
Participant Survey Responses



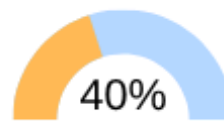
Participant Demographics



Aged 25 or under



with dependent children



Material wellbeing and basic necessities recorded as secondary presenting issue



Secondary Education recorded as Highest Level of Education

83%

entered Australia via Humanitarian pathways

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Participant Case Studies



Aisha

Aisha, a 27-year-old woman from Gaza, arrived in Australia with hope for a safer future. She is pregnant with her first child and speaks only Arabic. With no prior driving experience, Aisha often felt vulnerable and isolated in a country where everything from public transport to medical appointments felt unfamiliar and overwhelming.

Understanding her situation, WCC connected Aisha to the Women's Driving Program, pairing her with a compassionate, female Arabic-speaking instructor. From the first lesson, the instructor provided reassurance, patience, and encouragement creating a safe space where Aisha could face her fears and start building her independence.

The day Aisha passed her driving test was a moment of pure joy. Tears filled her eyes as she whispered:

"I never thought I could do this... I feel strong. I can take care of myself and my baby. I can live my life without fear."



Zahra

Zahra, a 19-year-old young woman from Afghanistan, arrived in Australia as a teenager with hopes of building a safe and stable future. A Dari speaker with strong English skills at Level 3 AMEP, Zahra is the eldest child in her family, living with her mother and six younger brothers and sisters. She carries significant responsibilities supporting her family while pursuing her own goals. However, one major barrier stood in her way: she could not drive.

To remove this barrier, WCC referred Zahra to the Women's Driving Program. She was paired with a female instructor who understood her cultural background and the pressures of balancing family responsibilities with education. Zahra attended every lesson, practised regularly, and studied carefully for her tests. Over time, her confidence behind the wheel grew, giving her a sense of independence she had not experienced before. When she passed her driving test, she said:

"Now I can get to class, to placement, anywhere I need. I finally feel like my goals are possible."