

# Workforce Matters!

Together growing the workforce and good local jobs

## Get in touch with us!

- If you're an **employer** who wants to advertise a vacancy or learn more about the support we can provide through programmes like Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.
- If you're a **jobseeker** looking for a new role, support or training opportunities.
- If you're a **social service provider** who wants to know more about these initiatives.

[odc.govt.nz/workforcematters](https://odc.govt.nz/workforcematters)

## Driver licencing

**Did you know that only 5% of students leave school with a full licence? Yet a driver's licence is almost essential for almost any job in Ōpōtiki, for the mahi itself or to get legally to and from work or study.**

Ōpōtiki district doesn't have great stats on our roads – we have a high crash rate and we have a lot of unlicensed drivers. But we know that it can be really difficult to get a driver's licence in our rōhe – a road-worthy car, someone to teach you to drive, distance to a testing centre, and all sorts of other barriers.

In the Eastern Bay, that means fewer and fewer people are getting their licence which is not helping safety on our roads or helping people into work or study.

## What are we doing?

Since 2017, council has supported locally-led initiatives to help our community "get legal" and drive more competently. We've got several great programmes to make it easier and support people to get their Learner, Restricted or Full Licence.

### 1 Ōpōtiki Community Driver Mentoring Programme

We've partnered with and funded Eastbay REAP to help people progress from Learner to Restricted (which is probably the hardest step in the process!) and then from Restricted to Full. So far, we have helped 248 people do just that! You can visit or call the Heartlands Office on Church St to find out more about this awesome programme.



*Jose first heard about the Ōpōtiki Community Driver Mentor Programme through his dad, and we supported him through his Learners, Restricted, Defensive Driving Course and now his Full Licence. He told Eastbay REAP that the main reason he wanted his Full licence was to open up more job opportunities. He was thrilled to pass the test and we are super proud of all he has achieved.*



*Teiriwhero first heard about the Ōpōtiki Community Driver Mentor Programme through her job at the Mussel Factory. She needs her licence at work and to get to work, and that although she's had her Learners for over two years, she needed a boost of confidence to encourage her to sit the test. Eastbay REAP said "We were as stoked as Teiriwhero was when she passed her Restricted and we'll be here to help her if she needs it when it is time to move to Full".*

## Our team



Barbara MacLennan and Madeline Kaa

Ōpōtiki District Council has a dedicated workforce development team to help support and coordinate this mahi. We work with local iwi, employers, community, central government and other agencies.

### 2 Supporting Learner and Restricted Licencing

We've partnered with and funded other local providers and organisations to help people take the first step to get their Learner Licence. We've also worked with Mary-Lou's Driving School to bring Defensive Driving Courses to Ōpōtiki. These courses reduce the time before you are able to sit your Full Licence by six months and help build confidence and skills for Restricted licence holders.

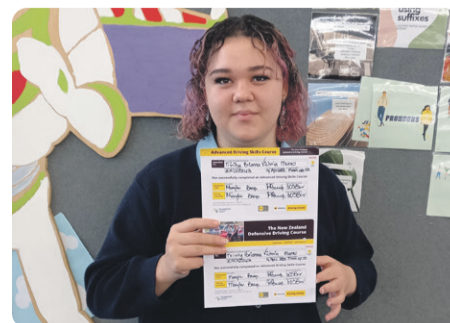


*Mary-Lou has delivered multiple Defensive Driving Courses in Ōpōtiki. Here you can see her delivering the course to Ōpōtiki College students at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangī.*

### 3 Ōpōtiki College helps their students as part of their school programmes

We're 100% behind the approach of Ōpōtiki College to bring driver licencing into their everyday school work programme. We support this in all sorts of ways, along with other Mahi Ora partners, particularly Toi EDA.

So far the college has helped more than 100 students through one of the driver licence steps, and they're getting underway again this year.



*Trinity from Ōpōtiki College with her Defensive Driving Course certificate.*

