



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MAKING YOUNG DRIVERS SAFER**

Mr Geoff Corrigan MP, Chair of the NSW Parliament's Staysafe Committee, today tabled the Committee's report on Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

"Everyone should get behind this report", said Mr Corrigan. "Young driver safety is something that affects all of us, and not equipping and supporting young people to drive safely on our roads will continue to have tragic consequences for our community and the nation as a whole".

"Inexperience and risk taking continue to be the most significant predictors of trauma on our roads. The seriousness of the problem has been reinforced by an unrelenting spate of fatalities during the course of the Committee's inquiry", Mr Corrigan continued.

Traffic crashes are the primary cause of death of people aged 15-24 internationally and cost untold billions of dollars in lost opportunity and productivity. In NSW, young, primarily male drivers are involved in approximately 30% of fatal crashes and 29% of all vehicle crashes.

This report discusses some of the causes underlying these figures and makes recommendations to improve support and services to young drivers and their families. The report also examines the different levels of support in rural and regional areas and makes further recommendations to assist young drivers in country areas.

The inquiry has found many inconsistencies in the provision of driver education for those learning to drive and in the quality of courses currently available. In addition, the Committee has identified gaps in the overall coordination of road safety initiatives and interventions.

"Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee will assist road safety authorities, researchers, education and training providers, as well as young people and their families to take ownership of the solutions provided in the report. Young driver safety is not just an area of government responsibility, but is an individual and public safety issue which must be taken seriously by all concerned", Mr Corrigan concluded.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Geoff Corrigan, Committee Chair, on 0412 551 768.

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