



MEDIA RELEASE

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INQUIRY WILL EXAMINE WHOLE-OF-LIFE DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A new parliamentary inquiry will examine the role of whole-of-life driver education and training in supporting improved road safety outcomes, Albury MP Greg Aplin, Chair of the Parliament's Staysafe Committee, announced today.

"New South Wales has been a standout road safety performer for many years, but the recent spike in road fatalities is concerning," Mr Aplin said. "We are also concerned that certain age groups, and especially some experienced drivers, are over-represented in the statistics."

The inquiry's terms of reference are broad, giving the public an opportunity to have their say on driver education and training as they relate to all drivers throughout their driving lives.

"Driver education and training are often seen as only relevant to the young," Mr Aplin said. "We think it is time to examine the role of education and training for people of all ages, wherever they live, and however they use their vehicles."

The inquiry's terms of reference include examining the effectiveness of refresher training, and educating drivers about changing vehicle technology.

"Our recent inquiry into motorcycle safety identified the value of encouraging experienced and returning riders to update their skills," Mr Aplin said. "For many of us the only training we receive is in our teenage years, yet changes to driving conditions and vehicle technology during our driving lives can make much of this early training obsolete."

The inquiry will also examine the needs of rural and regional drivers, drivers with health-related conditions, and other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers, including children and young people.

"We will also be looking at the needs of driver trainers," Mr Aplin said. "Trainers include both professionals who work for driving schools or are self-employed, and parents and friends who train people in their own time with limited support."

The Staysafe Committee does not have a preconceived view on how education and training can be better targeted or delivered.

"We have an open mind about whether more training should be mandatory," Mr Aplin said. "We are keen to find out whether education and training are accessible, timely, and targeted at the right people. We want to know what things we can do more effectively to improve skills, change attitudes, and deliver better road safety outcomes."

Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday 20 February 2017.

More information is available on the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe.

MEDIA CONTACT: Mr Greg Aplin MP, Chair of the Staysafe Committee (02) 6021 3042