



MEDIA RELEASE
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SAFE DRIVING IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

“Learning to drive a car is only the start of driving safely for the rest of your life,” said Albury MP Greg Aplin, Chair of the Parliament’s Staysafe Committee.

Mr Aplin tabled the Staysafe Committee’s latest report into driver education, training and road safety in the NSW Parliament today.

“We received many submissions calling for mandatory retesting of drivers at regular intervals,” Mr Aplin said.

“But the evidence showed strongly that safe driving comes with experience and the development of safe driving attitudes.”

The Committee found that mandatory retesting of all drivers is unlikely to lower the road toll, but would come at great cost.

“Just as it is vital that learners are properly trained to drive,” Mr Aplin said, “it is equally important that drivers of all ages develop the right attitude to sharing the road with other drivers, their passengers and everyone else who uses the roads.”

“We need to continue and expand the safe driving campaigns which explain to drivers that attitude is just as important as skill on the road.”

The Committee heard that the contribution of unlicensed drivers to crashes may not be well understood.

“Retesting all licensed drivers, however expensive and thorough, will never capture unlicensed drivers who will simply be invisible to a retesting regime,” Mr Aplin said.

“We recommended that the NSW Government prepare a strategy for targeting unlicensed drivers.”

The Committee also received many submissions branding older driver assessment in NSW as discriminatory.

“On balance we believe that older driver assessment is a reasonable approach to the greater risk of injury which older drivers face,” Mr Aplin said.



“Older drivers have the option of moving to a restricted licence if they do not wish to be tested, and managing their eventual retirement from driving in a gradual and dignified way.”

The Committee also recommended better regulation of professional driver trainers, and a study of the benefits of encouraging learner drivers to undertake more hours of professional training.

“The value of professional training is already recognised by the ‘3 for 1’ discount which learners may record in their logbooks,” Mr Aplin said.

“Properly regulated, professional training and even some volunteer community mentoring may qualify for greater discounts than currently.”

The Committee made 30 recommendations including the mandatory reporting of drivers with dementia, research into the value of driving simulators, and more education for drivers about sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

“Safe driving is about making the right decisions every time you drive, every day of your driving life,” Mr Aplin said.

The Committee has referred its recommendations to the NSW Government which has six months to respond.

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