

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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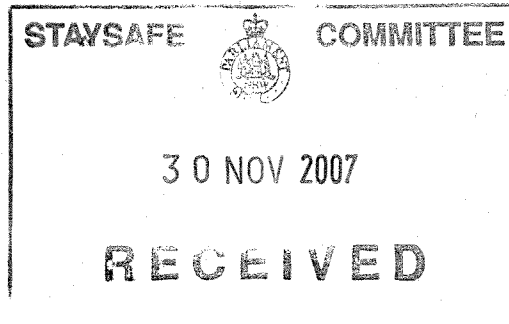
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27 November 2007

Mr Geoff Corrigan, MP
Chair, Legislative Assembly
Staysafe Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Corrigan

Re: Staysafe inquiry into Young Drivers and Education Programs

North Sydney Council is committed to reducing the number of road related accidents, especially those involving young drivers.

Please find enclosed our submission, outlining the various initiatives implemented by North Sydney Council to help improve young driver safety.

Should you require any further assistance with your inquiry please don't hesitate to contact Anna Brzozowsk, Road Safety Officer on 9936 8100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Holloway'.

Penny Holloway
GENERAL MANAGER

Enclosure

1. Current incidence of road crashes involving young drivers in North Sydney

Between 2002 and 2006, persons aged 17- 25 accounted for 38.6% accidents in the North Sydney Local Government Area. Research also shows that both genders in this age group are equally at risk. Passenger casualties however are more likely amongst males aged 17-25.

2. Initiatives to improve young driver safety in North Sydney

North Sydney Council is committed to creating a safer community by reducing the number of road related accidents.

North Sydney Council employs a full-time Road Safety Officer, who is responsible for addressing the road safety issues within North Sydney and raising community awareness amongst the various target groups through enforcement, education and engineering efforts.

Some of the current programs being run which aim to improve young driver safety include:

a. Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) Workshops

Project Objectives

To raise parent's awareness about the importance of supervised driving practice.
To provide parents with strategies to help their new drivers become safe drivers.
To increase compliance with the Learner Driver Log Book.

Target Group

Parents and supervisors of learner drivers

Project Description

GLS workshops help to explain the graduated licensing system to supervisors of learner drivers. Topics covered in the workshop include how to use the learner driver logbook, how to plan driving sessions, how to deal with difficult situations and the importance of providing constructive feedback.

North Sydney Council holds a minimum of 2 workshops per financial year. In 2006/07, a total of 58 bookings were taken, with approx 42 people attending.

The workshops are always popular and well received as they offer practical advice and give supervisors the knowledge and confidence required to supervise young drivers.

b. Slow Down

Project Objectives

- To provide a range of practical information to young and new drivers.
- To reduce the number of young driver related accidents.
- To ensure young drivers are complying with the law.
- To increase safety of young drivers.

Target Group

Young and new drivers

Project Description

This campaign was run in conjunction with the RTA, Police and other local councils across Sydney, in an effort to reduce the number of P Plate drivers involved in fatal crashes.

The police targeted offences including speeding, seatbelts and helmet offences, whilst council supported these activities through promotion of the campaign to local schools, via banners and local media.

c. Young Drivers Workshop

As stated earlier in the document, North Sydney Council regularly runs GLS workshops for parents of learner drivers, however it has been identified that a similar workshop may be of value specifically for young drivers.

A survey was conducted with both parents and young drivers, to obtain feedback about the format, topics and timing of such a workshop, to ensure it would be relevant and well attended.

The initial analysis found that most young drivers who responded would find topics such as risk and hazard perception and purchasing a car and insurance very useful.

The results are being analysed further and a workshop format is being developed for 2007/2008.

The aim of the workshop will be to give young and new drivers practical information as they progress through the various licensing stages.

d. Car Maintenance Workshops for Young Drivers

Project Objectives

- To provide young drivers with a basic knowledge of car maintenance, to help prevent on-road problems.
- To improve the safety and confidence of young drivers on our roads.

Target Group

Young and new drivers

Project Description

The Car Maintenance Workshops are free and held in conjunction with a local mechanic.

The workshop provides attendees with a broad overview of the workings of a car, basic maintenance tips, 'how to' demonstrations and plenty of opportunity to ask questions.