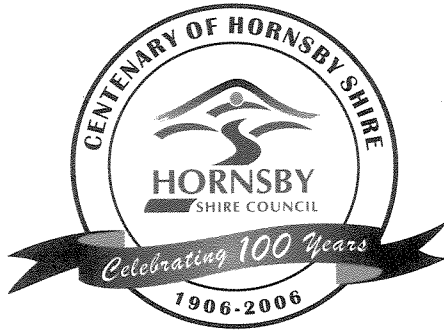


## **INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Organisation:** Hornsby Shire Council  
**Name:** Ms Sharon Mizzi  
**Position:** Co-ordinator Youth Services, Community Services  
Branch  
**Date Received:** 30/11/2007

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Our Reference: F2004/06891  
Related reference: D00712870  
Contact Person: Lawrence Nagy  
Hours: 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Telephone: 9847 6524  
Fax: 9847 6559

3 December 2007

Mr Geoff Corrigan MP  
Chair Staysafe Committee  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Corrigan

**Hornsby Shire Council Submission – Young Driver Safety and Education Programs**


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Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2007 inviting submissions for Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

Attached is Council's submission prepared by Council's Co-ordinator Youth Services, a copy of which was forwarded by email on Friday 30 November 2007. The programs run by Council are extremely well received by the community and Council is keen to see the programs continue.

If you require further information, please contact the undersigned on 9847 6524.

Yours sincerely

  
LAWRENCE NAGY  
Manager  
Traffic and Road Safety

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## Submission to Stay Safe

### Inquiry into Young Driver Safety & Education Programs

#### By Hornsby Shire Council – Youth Services Team

Hornsby Shire Council's Youth Services Team works in partnership with David Riches & Associates – a consultant/contractor for the Road & Traffic Authority (RTA) to run Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops, better known to the community as "Learner Driver's Workshops".

This year we have run four workshops with a total of 141 participants, mostly parents. As the workshops have a high participatory factor, giving opportunity for many questions throughout the workshop, the numbers are kept in the thirties. We have found that demand is extremely high, for example, we have over twenty-five people booked in for the next workshop organised for 21 February 2008.

Comments we would like to put forward to the Committee are as follows:

- Many young people and their parents showed much concern about the changes that came into effect on 1 July, 2007 relating to new licence conditions for learners and provisional drivers and riders. The changes highlighted the need for parents (where possible) to stay involved in the entire process of their children obtaining their licence.
- The workshops regularity depends on funding provided by the RTA. Successful numbers at each workshop determines whether funding will be provided for the next anticipated workshop.
- Parents and young people provide feedback to David and the Youth Services Team – it is common to hear that they are pleased they attended the night because they didn't realise how much was involved for their kids to get their licence. At first they were disappointed that so many extra hours were added on to the supervised driving times (from 50 to 120 hours), but then realised how things have changed since they got their licence. Then they change their minds and are pleased that so much more is expected of them, teaching their kids how to drive in all kinds of conditions, with encouragement of using professional accredited driving schools throughout their learning process (not just at the end). That it will take at least 120 hours for young people to learn the skills of driving and then practice them.
- Parents re-evaluate their driving strengths and weaknesses and are able to decide whether or not they are the "best" person supervising their own kids. Some decide that due to personality clashes that it may not be in their own child's best interest to supervise them. Maybe it might be better for an aunt/uncle or a family friend to supervise their child and they can assist with others kids, sharing the supervisor role.

We recommend that these Learner Driver's Workshops are crucial in giving parents confidence in assisting their kids in the entire process of obtaining their licence – supporting parents in keeping their kids safe on the roads.

Sharon Mizzi  
Coordinator Youth Services  
Hornsby Shire Council