

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

**Name:** Cr Julie Hegarty

**Date Received:** 15/10/2007

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Julie\_Hegarty/ 15/10/2007 2:24 pm

Dear Committee Manager,

I am writing to you with a submission that I would like you to take into consideration in your upcoming Inquiry. I write this submission in my capacity as a Trainee Driving Instructor with many years of Councillor experience.

I have been an elected Councillor on Pittwater Council for 12 years and have sat as an Executive Member of the NSW Local Government and Shires Committee for the last 5 years. On Pittwater Council I am the chairman of the Traffic Committee and the Road Safety Committee.

I have recently decided to enact my wish to become a Driving Instructor and have found some very interesting "facts" that I believe your committee should take into consideration. Some of which concern me greatly!

To become a Driving Instructor is a very arduous task and expensive! With many different stages that your committee may not fully be aware.

- Purchase the Road Users Handbook and refresh myself with the Road Rules again.
- Sit a Medical Examination.
- Purchase passport photos.
- Sit the Driver Knowledge Test at the RTA (the same test as young drivers, although I had to sit 90 questions instead of the standard 45, and I could only get 2 wrong).
- Be interviewed by the Police as to my capacity to carry out this role.
- Sit the Practical Entry Driving Test - and undergo a few lessons prior no doubt!
- Study for the Theory part of the Distance education Driver Trainers Course.
- Have lessons with a driving instructor as I instruct a pupil
- Sit the Course Practical Assessment.
- Sit the Theory Exam.
- Sit the RTA Driving Instructors Impart Knowledge Test.
- And Hopefully Pass !!!

HOWEVER - not all young people will be learning from someone as qualified and as capable as I intend to be. Some will only train with their parents. And what qualifications do they have - NONE!! that I didn't already have!!

I feel very strongly that the process for a driving instructor is valid and worthwhile - I am however concerned that many young people will be taught to drive by their parents that have not read the road rules for some 20 years and will automatically be passing on their tedious and bad driving habits!!

One L driver was out driving with a parent on a country road for 2 hours while the parent slept!! One young man said he didn't really need to read the handbook as he could just keep doing the questions on the internet and besides "dad will tell me everything I need to know".

I think there should be some sort of refresher requirement if parents, or carers intent to teach young people to drive. The disparity between the knowledge needed by driving instructors and "others" is far too large.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

regards,

Clr Julie Hegarty