

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

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## **ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**

Submission to the Inquiry into Young Driver Safety  
& Education Programs  
Parliament of New South Wales Staysafe Committee

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Trauma Committee  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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# Submission to the Inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Program

## 1. Recommendations

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is supportive of the recent changes to the Graduated Driver Licensing system in New South Wales.

Changes such as banning mobile phone use, increasing license terms and supervised driving hours for learners is particularly applauded as it is based on sound research evidence. We would like to see the same principles adopted with restrictions such as night curfews and passenger restrictions. The recently introduced passenger restriction at night while positive, can be further strengthened by following some other states such as Western Australia who restrict peer passengers throughout the day and are now mandating night curfews during the first phase of provisional licensure.

There is evidence to suggest that the part of the brain that assesses risks and controls impulsive behaviour is not fully developed until about age 25 (23 years in females), providing a physical reason why restrictions such as night time curfews and limiting peer passengers is so important. It also suggests that delaying licensure nationwide to 18 years as in Victoria (and now being talked about in New Zealand) would be beneficial and receives the full support of the College of Surgeons.

The College's New South Wales representative, Assoc. Prof. Danny Cass can formally present to the Committee at any time. Contact can be made by the College's Road Trauma Committee secretariat, Monique Whear, RACS, College of Surgeons Gardens, Spring St, Melbourne 3000, Ph 03 9249 1259 or email [monique.whear@surgeons.org](mailto:monique.whear@surgeons.org).

## 2. References

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