

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: Kiama Municipal Council
Name: Cr Sandra McCarthy
Position: Mayor
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5 November 2007

Geoff Corrigan MP
Chair
Parliament of New South Wales
Staysafe Committee
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir

**Council of the Municipality of Kiama
Submission to NSW Parliament Staysafe Committee
on Young Driver Safety and Education Programs**

Prepared by Kiama Council Road Safety Steering Committee November 2007

CRASH PROFILE: (RTA crash data 1996-20060)

Over the past ten years, all crashes (p4) in the Kiama Municipality have reduced from 170 to 108. The involvement of controllers aged 17-25 has remained proportionately in the band 20% to 25% and is reflected in State and Regional figures which have been in the range of 23% to 27% for the same period.

The data available to this committee when preparing the Road Safety Action Plan provides detail of crashes within the Municipality and raw numbers of controllers residing in Kiama involved in crashes in other parts of the state. For example in 2006, 62 local residents were involved in local crashes while 124 local residents were involved as controllers in crashes elsewhere in NSW. The data does not identify these controllers by age. It may be useful when developing local programs to look at the crash involvement of local residents in all jurisdictions.

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

Kiama Council participates in the RTA Local Government Road Safety Program employing a full time Road Safety Officer. The Road Safety Steering Committee is a sub committee of Council with active mayoral representation. This committee is currently developing the Council's Road Safety Strategic Plan to 2013 and has delivered annual Road Safety Action Plans since 2003.

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE

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The major education programs for young drivers have been:

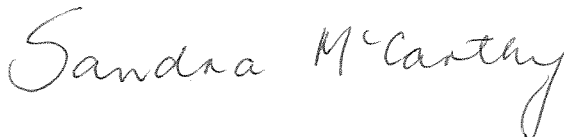
- Workshops for parents of learner drivers - helping learner drivers complete the prescribed number of hours of supervised driving.
- Logbook runs - learners completing a planned route with RBT, speed check and driver reviver stops. A social event with opportunities to interact with peers, police and road safety professionals.
- Year 11 programs such as U-turn the Wheel and the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program.
- Support for local school PE, PD and Health programs.
- Development of a guide for learner drivers including maps of suggested routes for driving practice appropriate to experience.
- An alternative transport service on Friday and Saturday nights supported by the RTA and the Local Liquor Accord.

AREAS OF CONCERN

While the value of 120 hours of supervised driving for learners is understood, there is a feeling in the community that youth from poorer socio-economic backgrounds may now be excluded because of financial burden of the additional driving and/or the access to a suitable vehicle. We may need to look at programs to support this group while maintaining our current programs.

State figures indicate that most crashes involving young drivers occur in the first year of driving (Red P) and, it seems, that there is very little apart from RTA mass information programs and police enforcement to support these drivers. We need to look at programs to address this need.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Sandra McCarthy
Mayor