

**Submission
No. 5**

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Name: Cr Robert Stutsel

Date Received: 22/10/2007

Inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Bourke Shire Councillor and became aware of the Inquiry via the Local Government Weekly, otherwise I would never be aware of the Inquiry.

I was a Police Officer for a period of 37 years and at times "Traffic Sergeant" – it was only the last ten years or so that I became aware of what the "Staysafe" committee actually was, such is the lack of penetration of Government issues to Western NSW. I had read about it in the newspapers but I did not know that it was a Government Committee. Similarly, it is almost impossible to bring matters of vital community importance to Government. Bourke Shire Council has been trying for three years to have some real teeth implanted into the "bicycle helmet" legislation and it is like there is an impenetrable wall between the community and Government.

On this point the "pinky" campaign has yet to reach Bourke. I read about it in last weeks Sunday papers and I tried to download a photo from the Internet to display outside my home for the local hoodlums but the photo was too indistinct.

It was part of our duties at Bourke Police Station to test drivers for their knowledge and driving skills. I almost invariably passed female applicants because (at that time) females knew they lacked skill at driving and drove appropriately until their skill levels increased. I am aware that many young females these days have lost their femininity and may now be more likely to exhibit similar poor behaviour as males.

I believe that psychometric testing should be trialled for learner drivers in an effort to determine who should do a short "L" plate period and those who should do the ridiculously long system now in place and in addition any traffic infringements within the first five years should result in the driver being required to undergo another year or two on "L" plates. I have a couple of m/v hoodlum neighbours and I do not believe the difficulty in obtaining "P" plates has any bearing whatsoever in their attitude or driving competency and as a consequence the road toll.

When I joined the Police circa 1967, we were all given a small buff coloured pocket book of the Motor Traffic Act. The result was that General Duties Police showed an interest in traffic matters and keeping hoodlums under control. After about ten years the handbook was no longer issued because of a poor sighted cost saving and as a consequence, General Duty Police now have little knowledge or interest in traffic.

I also believe that no motor vehicle should be modified in any manner whatsoever. The RTA should refuse to re-register any motor vehicle that is not up to original specifications re muffler, computer chip, suspension, lights etc.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Robert STUTSEL
BOURKE 2840
21 October, 2007.