

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: Goulburn Mulwaree Council
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Position: Mayor
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Mr Geoff Corrigan MP
Chair
Staysafe Committee
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000



29 November 2007

Dear Mr Corrigan

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Staysafe Committee's inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

Like all close-knit rural communities, Goulburn Mulwaree residents are devastated when anyone is injured or killed in an accident on our roads. It is always particularly devastating if the casualty is one of our young people, with the needless loss of life felt for many years.

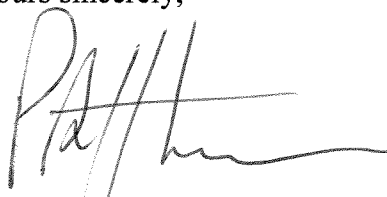
In a rural area young people more regularly drive on unlit, winding and unsealed rural roads with higher speed limits. Distance, fatigue and an increased chance of drink or drug driving is potentially a problem due to the lack of public transport.

Council has proudly participated for ten years in the Local Government Road Safety Program. Through our partnership with the RTA under this program, initiatives aimed specifically at young drivers have included our annual U-Turn the Wheel event and regular learner driver program included Graduated Licensing Scheme workshops. In addition to the information offered, the sense of care and belonging felt by the young people taking part in these programs hopefully creates a responsibility to take care on the roads as valued members of our community.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council has welcomed the recent changes to driving laws for younger drivers and believes the stronger penalties have already proven to be a deterrent to reckless behaviour amongst inexperienced drivers. Council would welcome the expansion of these or other initiatives which target young drivers to reduce casualties on NSW roads.

Council wishes the Safesafe Committee every success with its endeavours and looks forward to receiving its report.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Stephenson
Mayor of Goulburn Mulwaree