

Submission

No 15

DRIVER AND ROAD USER DISTRACTION

Organisation: Department of Education and Communities
Name: The Honourable Adrian Piccoli MP
Position: Minister for Education
Date Received: 24/04/2012



The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP
Minister for Education

Mr Greg Aplin MP
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RML 12/1311
DGL 12/324

23 APR 2012

Dear Mr Aplin 

I write in response to your letter of 6 March 2012, regarding the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety Inquiry into Driver and Road User Distraction (your reference: D12/04962).

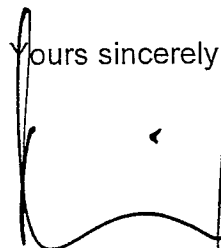
Thank you for giving the Department of Education and Communities the opportunity to comment on the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

In NSW public schools, road safety education incorporating driver education is taught through the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education learning area. This learning area is mandatory for all students from Kindergarten to Year 10. Driver education is specifically taught in Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10).

Schools are supported in the teaching of road safety through the Department's Road Safety Education program, funded by the NSW Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW. This program provides classroom resources and professional learning for teachers.

Resources such as *Move Ahead With Street Sense* for Early Stage 1-Stage 3 students, *Road Risks Your Choice* for Stage 4 students, *Shifting Gears* for Stage 5 students, *Limiting Risks Protecting Lives* for Stages 5 and 6 students and *In the Driver's Seat* for Stage 6 students have been provided to all NSW schools by Transport for NSW. These resources have been supported with professional learning support from the Department's Road Safety Education program. Activities in the resources address road user distraction and the possible consequences of such unsafe behaviours. Students' skills and attitudes, values, knowledge and understandings are challenged through teaching and learning activities relevant to the road and traffic environment in which they live.

A submission to the Inquiry from the Department is attached.

Yours sincerely


Adrian Piccoli MP
Minister for Education

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety

Inquiry: Driver and Road User Distraction

Terms of Reference

- a) The nature and extent of distraction as a contributor to crash casualties on NSW roads

The NSW Board of Studies *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6 and 7-10* syllabuses provide the teaching and learning context in which students develop their knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes in relation to being a road user. Road users include pedestrians, passengers, wheels users (users of bicycles, skateboards, scooters, rollerblades), and future and young drivers.

The *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6 Syllabus* is based on a broad notion of health that encompasses all aspects of an individual's wellbeing to enable them to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. As part of that syllabus, students learn about:

- safe crossing procedures and being a safe and responsible pedestrian in the traffic environment
- use of restraints and safe and responsible behaviours as a passenger
- safety equipment, safe places to ride and responsible behaviours as a user of wheeled devices.

The *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Years 7-10 Syllabus* takes a preventative or harm minimisation approach to health. As part of that syllabus, students learn about:

- risk factors and behaviours in a range of road environments and situations
- responsible driver and passenger behaviours
- factors and influences on road use behaviours
- major causal factors in road and traffic related injuries
- consequences of safe and unsafe road use behaviours
- skills and attitudes that support safe road behaviour
- laws, regulations and rules.

Schools are supported through professional learning and resources provided by the Department's Road Safety Education program. This program is funded by the NSW Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW.

Resources provided to schools by Transport for NSW include activities that address road user distraction and the possible consequences of unsafe behaviours. Sources of distraction reviewed in these classes include examples such as texting on a mobile phone or listening to music as a pedestrian, passenger, wheels user, or future/young driver. Student's skills and attitudes, values, knowledge and understandings are challenged through teaching and learning activities applicable to the local road and traffic environment in which they live.

b) Current rates and future trends in take up of electronic devices, both by road users and vehicle manufacturers

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is not the agency responsible for current rates and future trends in take up of electronic devices, both by road users and vehicle manufacturers.

c) Regulatory means of enforcing harm minimisation caused by such devices

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is not the agency responsible for regulatory means of enforcing harm minimisation caused by such devices.

d) Technological solutions to managing the harmful consequences of distraction

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is not the agency responsible for technological solutions to managing the harmful consequences of distraction.

e) Other solutions to reduce information overload for road users

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is not the agency responsible for solutions to reduce the information overload for road users.

f) Any other related matters

Nil.