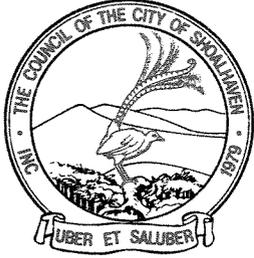


INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: The Council of the City of Shoalhaven
Name: Cr Greg Watson
Position: Mayor
Date Received: 12/11/2007



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2 November 2007

Parliament of New South Wales - Staysafe Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attn: Geoff Corrigan - Chairman

Dear Geoff

Submission - Young Driver Safety and Education Programs

Shoalhaven City Council congratulates the STAYSAFE Committee on undertaking this investigation into young driver safety and education programs. We have lost far too many young people on our roads.

Shoalhaven City Council has had a longstanding commitment to road safety which has been particularly enhanced by our employment, under the Local Government Road Safety Program, of a Road Safety Officer since 1995.

We are keenly aware of the over representation of young people in our road casualty statistics and support all initiatives of the Council's Road Safety Officer to address this alarming safety issue.

Over the past twelve years Council's Road Safety Officer(s) have implemented a number of road safety educational programs and initiatives specifically targeting young drivers.

These have included:

- Ensuring young drivers and passengers are a key target area identified for action in the Shoalhaven City Council Road Safety Strategic Plan
- Development and implementation of a Young Driver Education Program specifically targeted to all Year 10 students in the City of Shoalhaven – SKYDS
- Development and implementation of the Log Book Runs – an on road learning opportunity for young drivers and their supervisors
- Delivery of the RTA Graduated Licencing Scheme Parent workshops for parents and supervisors of learner drivers.

Of most interest to your Committee are perhaps the Skilled or Killed Young Driver Safety program (SKYDS) which has been developed and offered by Shoalhaven City Council and partners since 2001 and the Log Book Run events.

A full report on the SKYDS program is attached to this submission. Essentially the program was modelled closely on the U-Turn the Wheel Program developed by Wingecarribee Shire Council in 1999. U-Turn the Wheel was the original template for numerous Young Driver Education Programs including the RYDA Program run extensively now throughout NSW by Rotary.

The Shoalhaven City Council SKYDS program is attended by over 1,500 Year 10 students each year. Careful evaluation of the program shows an extremely high satisfaction level by students. Most sessions are rated by over 90% of students to be 'useful' or 'very useful' and all sessions are rated well above 50% on the scale useful or very useful.

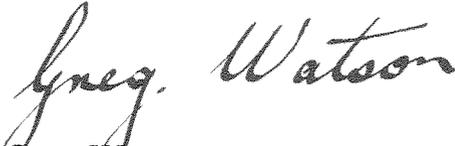
Perhaps more significant than the students' evaluation of the program is the fact that Shoalhaven is seeing a steady decline in both the number of crashes in which young people are involved and also the number of casualties resulting from these crashes. While we can obviously not claim that the SKYDS program is the sole contributor to this trend- since there are many many factors and initiatives at play – we do believe the Program a valuable contribution.

In conjunction with the development of the U-Turn the Wheel program in Wingecarribee Shire in 1999, was the Log Book Run events. This popular on and off road educational program for young drivers and their supervising drivers has also been duplicated widely in NSW and is now soon to be offered in the Shoalhaven by the Council's Road Safety Officer.

Shoalhaven City Council is one of the many Local Governments within the Southern Region RTA which has been developing and offering young driver educational programs since early 2000. Of note is that the Southern Region RTA shows a significant reduction in the number of young driver crashes and casualties when compared to other RTA regions. We believe programs such as SKYDS and Log Book Runs are making a significant contribution to the overall reduction in the number of young drivers killed or injured on our roads. Shoalhaven City Council will continue to support these initiatives and continues to actively research and develop other such educational programs directed at young driver safety and education. We look forward to the findings of the STAYS SAFE committee.

For further information on the Skilled or Killed Young Drivers program or Log Book Runs contact Council's Road Safety Officer Kim Davis on (02) 4429 3484.

Kind regards


Greg Watson
Mayor

26809-02

SKILLED or KILLED - Young Driver Safety

SKYDS

**Evaluation Report
2007**

Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Police and
Community Partners

Shoalhaven
City Council





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Brief background and reason for the program

Statistics tell us that over a ten-year period one family in four will be directly affected by road trauma. In the five year period 2000 to 2005, one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight (1,868) people have been killed or injured on our Shoalhaven roads and the majority of road crashes in Shoalhaven City involve local residents. (63% in 2005).

Tragically there is an alarming overrepresentation in crash and casualties figures among the 17-25 year olds age group in the Shoalhaven.

This age group makes up over a quarter (27%) of all road deaths and injuries in Shoalhaven and yet they comprise only 6.1% of the population.

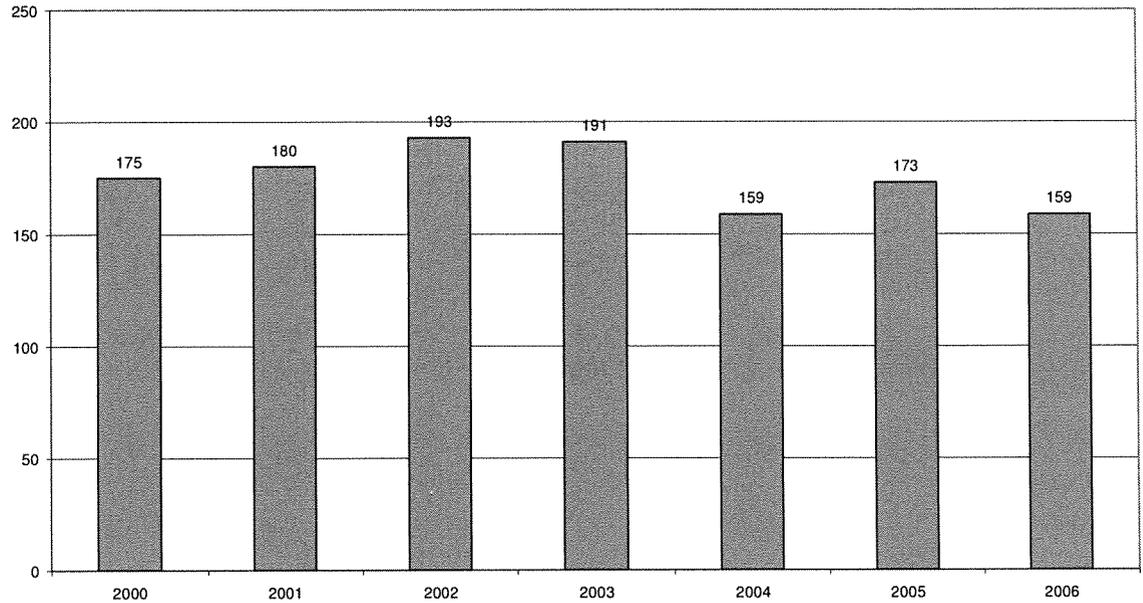
The alarming number of young people being killed or injured on our roads is not unique to the Shoalhaven. Young people are overrepresented in every region, State of Australia and in comparative countries around the world.

The latest available RTA figures (2005) showed casualties among this age group in the Shoalhaven were 27% of the total number of road casualties. The percentage of young people (17-25) killed or injured in the State during 2005 was 26% and regionally 25%. These casualty figures include both drivers and passengers.

Concerted efforts to address this issue continue to be made by various agencies including the RTA, local government- road safety officers, schools, health, police and others.

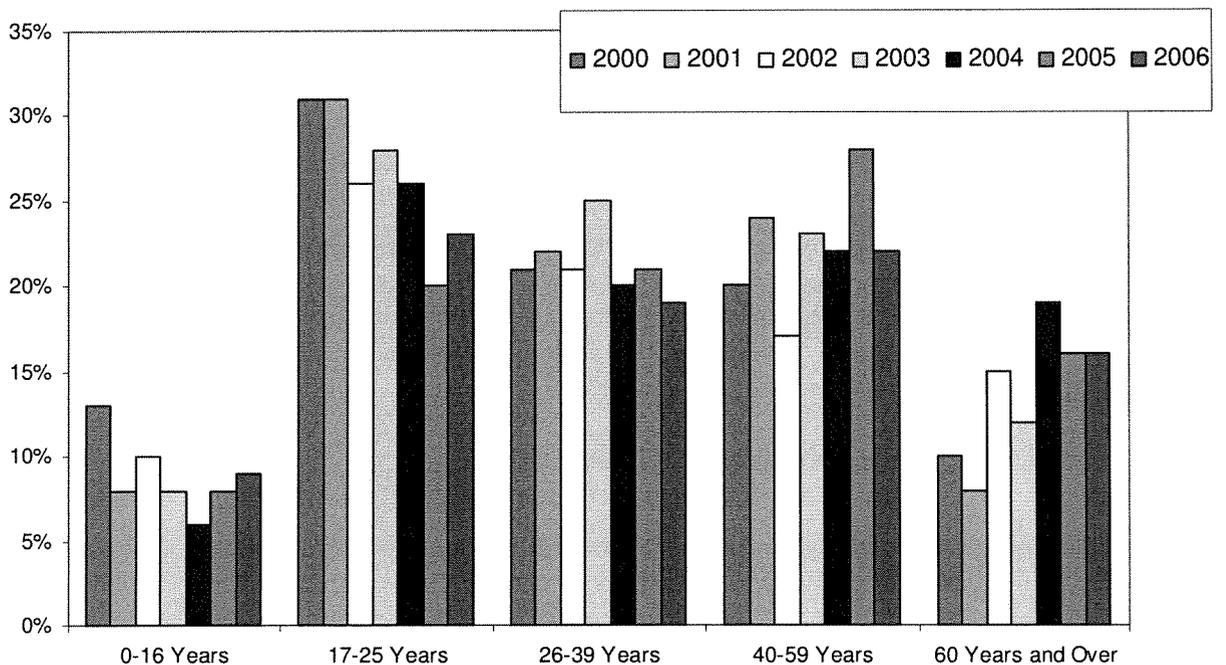
In the Shoalhaven, while we are still losing far too many young lives on our roads, we are starting to see a slight decline in the numbers of crashes and casualties.

Shoalhaven - total crashes involving 17- 25 year olds



The graph above shows the total number of road crashes in the Shoalhaven involving young people.

The graph below shows the number of casualties (deaths and injuries) from crashes in the Shoalhaven per age group. Clearly there is a decline in the number of casualties resulting from crashes among the 17- 25 age year group.





Factors causing crashes

In 2005 almost half (45%) of the people driving or riding at the time of an alcohol related crash were aged 25 years or younger. This is 10% higher than Regional figures (35%).

In 2005 almost half (43%) of the people driving or riding at the time of a speed related crash were aged 25 years or younger. These figures are similar to Regional figures (41%) and above State figures.

In 2005 30% of the people driving or riding at the time of a fatigue related crash were aged 25 years or younger. This is similar to Regional figures (33%).

Young drivers in their first years of independent driving are the highest risk group of drivers. Their safety on the roads is one of the greatest causes of anxiety for their parents.

The SKYDS program was developed in 2003 in the Shoalhaven to address the issues of young driver safety. It includes presentations from local Police, Health and Ambulance officers who voluntarily donate their time and expertise to the program. The program is not currently funded by the RTA despite repeated submissions from Shoalhaven City Council.

Description of the program

The SKYDS program was devised to address the continuing high risk and crash involvement of young people at the pre-driver stage, specifically targeting males and females aged 16 years (Year 10 level). Young people's road safety is a high priority of Shoalhaven City Council (Shoalhaven Road Safety Strategic Plan), Police and the RTA, local communities and all our road safety allies.

SKYDS is a pre-driving program, which focuses on attitudes and beliefs about driving and being a passenger.

SKYDS goes beyond the school curriculum and public information. It deals with real-life consequences. It provides information and motivation.

With cooperation of all local high schools, and presenters from many backgrounds, the program is coordinated by the local Police Youth Liaison Officer and Shoalhaven City Council's Road Safety Officer.



The program has been developed after extended analysis of crashes, collating research into factors and counter-measures, very extensive consultation with local stakeholders, program development based on research and precedents. The program includes ideas, resource material and support from Council and Police, local schools and media, other councils, VIPs, Shoalhaven Road Safety Group and Milton Ulladulla Driver Education Program team, from crash survivors, RTA, drink-drive prevention coordinators, ambulance officers, service clubs, driving instructors, from Victoria's TAC, NSW RTA, and ACT public awareness and driver education programs, as well as from local businesses and individual citizens.

Community and partner agency presenters were recruited for the program based on their relevant skills and life experience, and they are carefully briefed on the program and topic issues.

The pilot program was conducted with Vincentia High School in February 2003.

Now, much revised, SKYDS is being offered to pupils of all high schools in the Shoalhaven.

In 2007 the program was attended by 1,542 young people.

- **The full day program for Year 10 students is provided free of charge**
- **The program includes an introduction, 6 theme sessions, and summary.**

Program objectives

The overall objective of the SKYDS program is

- to reduce road trauma, especially among young adults.

The more immediate objectives are

- to provide clear information about road use hazards especially those relevant to young drivers, and about safer use of roads, as pedestrian, cyclist, passenger, and driver or rider, and
- to develop motivations to reduce risks, that are relevant to young adults' age, understanding, and immanent licensed status, and
- to work in appropriate partnerships, supporting police, health, educators, parents, RTA, health and driver trainers, or other community agencies with driver formation roles.

We believe SKYDS makes an important contribution to the area of road safety for young people and sits well alongside other important contributions such as school curriculum, licensing changes, media advertising, driver training, police enforcement and media coverage of events.

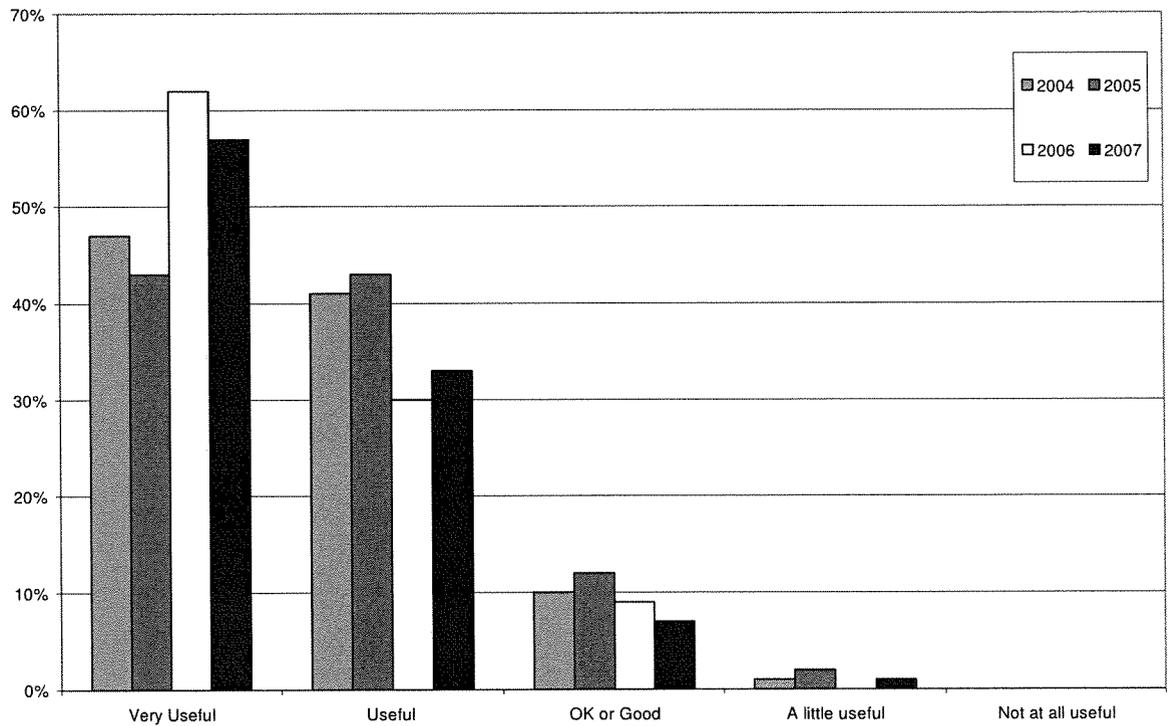
Evaluation

Extensive evaluation of the program is conducted with presenters, participants and school Year 10 coordinators. Informal feedback about the program also comes to us from schools, parents and program volunteers.

The following information has been collated from participant evaluations over the past 4 years.

Overall value of attending SKYDS

Participants are asked to rate the overall value of attending the program. The following graph shows that for the past 4 years in excess of 40 – 50% of the students rate the program as very useful.

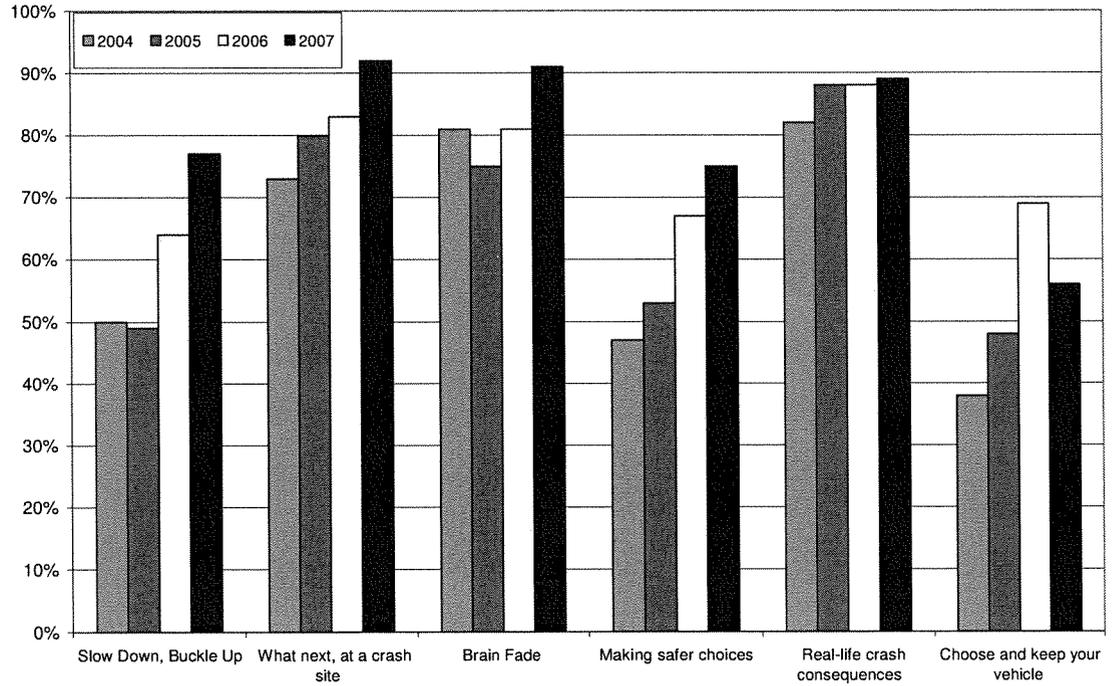


Individual sessions are also rated by participants and every session in the 2007 program was rated by students to be above 30% in the category "very valuable". With almost 60% of students agreeing the session "real life crash consequences" was 'very valuable'.

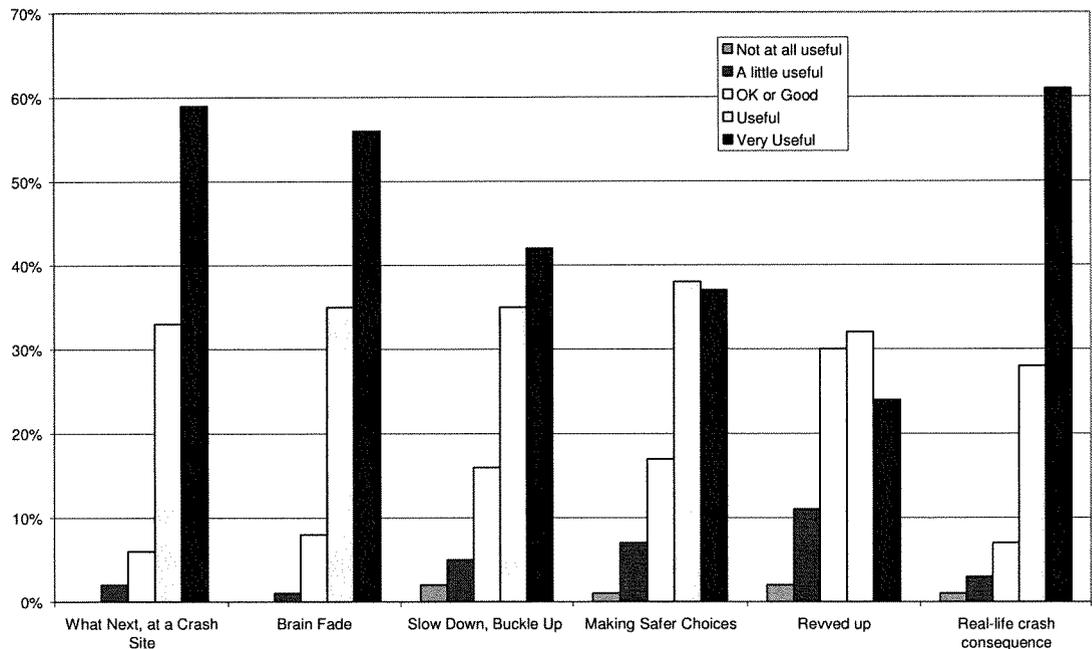
A comparison of student's ratings on each session over the past 4 years shows that presenters are continuing to modify and improve their sessions based on these evaluations and the program is becoming a better and better vehicle for delivering the road safety message to this age group.

The table below shows an extremely high satisfaction level by students. Some sessions are rated by over 90% of students to be useful or very useful. All sessions are rated well above 50% on the scale useful or very useful.

Useful or very useful rating



The following table shows students satisfaction ratings with the 2007 program. Clearly the SKYDs program is providing important safety information in a way which is being highly valued by students.



Comments from 2007 program participants- specific sessions

7a: Comments - Real-life Crash Consequences & Appropriate Risk

Quite sad
This was the best
This was great x 3
Very sad but I enjoyed it
I loved the emotion- the guys who had survived stuff were awesome
Sorry for your boy
This was an eye opener
Really involving and informative
Very interesting and moving
Very interesting and emotional
Mr Cooper's session was sad, scary and awesome - thanks
I felt like giving the dude in this session a hug
The one with survivors was good, used interesting things to explain statistics and helped you understand them better.
Showed real life experiences.
Session 1 wasn't useful as such but it was moving and really made you think twice about driving at all.
The father of the victim helped give the dangers substance and made them more real.
Real life crash consequences and appropriate risk was such a confronting lesson and it really got the message across of what can happen.
Very powerful and eye opening x 3
Very emotional - the statistics were helpful and interesting.
Scary and confronting.
Real life crash was so good.
Confronting and in your face.
Very good - especially number 1 x 5.
Survivors - I want to say sorry for being rude.
I felt that the real life crash consequences talk was very informative and eye opening. It certainly raised my awareness of the circumstances of speeding.
No. 1 was depressing.
The first one was very intriguing.
Great!
Very rude and mean
Session one was extremely relevant, well presented session which offered me more than the others.
Touching session. The little activities he had, put words in an actual scenario.

7b: Comments - Revved Up

Information useful but just reading it out was kinda boring x 2
Less talking or maybe visual things
I thought this was a little bit too much info and we just sat there
Lots of information talked at us - but too much to remember and nowhere to write it down. Information really useful though.
Insight into saving money and purchasing the right car.

Boring x 3

7c: Comments - Beliefs and Myths Making Safer Choices

A lot more entertaining and having both sides of the argument being told was very refreshing

Really enjoyed this session

Really involving and informative

Good and fun

Good lesson and good evaluation of the consequences

This was great - let us interact and have fun while learning about it

All good facts, however they are repeated in school etc.

3 and 5 were the most helpful, people were friendly, they even put up with the idiots.

Like the lady at No. 3 very down to earth.

7d: Comments - Brain Fade: Complexity and Inexperience

Beer goggles not really like when you are drunk

Good and fun because you were involved

Beer goggles really fun and great x 11

I've never drunk and it felt weird to know what I might feel like - really sick

I liked this one best x 2

The brain fade was good because the goggles showed what it's like.

I loved the goggles (awesome). X 7

Most of the stuff about effects of drugs and alcohol we were taught at school, as well as the stuff about breaking times.

Very powerful and eye opening.

Interesting, the visual activities were a definite eye opener.

I liked the beer goggles - it was fun. I also liked when that old chap squashed the ping pong balls and said it was Kade's mum???

Good learning experience.

Great - loved the brain fade.

7e: Comments - What Next, at a Crash Site

Fabulous

Very interesting

Very interesting and really worthwhile

This session very useful

This was the best

My favourite

Creepy

Great - learning about first aid I haven't had that before

Very good x 3

Graphic - really made an impact that was effective.

Ambulance was especially good as well x 3

The ambulance one was very confronting however it made me wake up to what crashes are like

Very powerful and eye opening.



Discovered helpful things to do at a crash (not including first aid)
3 and 5 were the most helpful, people were friendly, they even put up with the idiots.
Boring
Interesting - especially ambulance officer
Scary but good.

7f: Comments - Slow Down, Buckle Up

A little boring
No offence but this was boring
Provided many tips to being a safe driver.
Interesting
Slow down and buckle up was very good too.
Too cold outside

General comments

Participants were invited to make general comments about the program

9. Would you like to make any general comments? Or, what changes would you suggest for future presentations of the program?

Have lollies
It was all good/great x 12
All great - made me think about decision
It's all so useful - I liked all the subjects - thanks
I thought it was a very good day and I learned a lot
They were all useful with good info
Practical sessions were good and so were past experience on subjects
Good program
All good- made the idiots think more!
They were all really good - they made me think about the way people act and what to do in these situations
All excellent
The whole day was very useful on making decisions
Need to have more fun hands on stuff to do x 6
Everything was very well done
Drive a test car x 2
In a few of the sessions it felt like they were scaring us - they should let us face scenarios, the questions etc . We all know the statistics and risks but we don't know where something could go wrong
The program was very useful - I learned a lot and enjoyed myself
All very helpful
All presentations were great - I had an enjoyable day- and learned a lot from all sessions
Make sessions longer- there was a lot of useful information x 2
I really enjoyed it

Sometimes I thought they were trying to scare us into not driving
 It was a great day and I learned a lot of new things that I didn't know - well organised thanks
 Free food
 I like that they were directed at youth and they took on board we're driving and drinking and making decisions- thanks it was a good day.
 They were all really helpful
 The guy who lost his son Daniel? That was very good.
 I enjoyed it all, it knocked a bit of sense into everyone I think
 It was great x 11
 Very good and informative x 13
 Visual aids were good
 They were all good - thank you. X 4
 It was all right.
 They were all good but sometimes a little too generalised. We all aren't going to die of drug overdose or in a car accident but I can understand what they are saying.
 All were excellent.
 Very interesting x 2
 I liked them all - gets boring
 Display a few more examples of before and after effects of an accident
 It helps when the talker is enthusiastic and passionate about the issue - I enjoyed the ambulance officer and crossroads woman and goggles.
 All exciting
 More interaction and practical
 Where do you get the drug goggles?
 The information was good but we have heard it before. The only way we can stop people speeding is to put speed restrictions on cars so the car will only go a certain speed. It will help bring the death toll down.
 Was good but have head some of the information before.
 Could use some more "props" carpoint website, whiteboard to write main points on.
 More questions for students.
 Very useful.
 I have learnt a lot and am now more aware of the dangers.
 Some were a bit in your face but they were good - more handouts needed.
 Police lady - very good.
 I really liked the ambulance officer.
 More involvement by audience e.g. more practical
 It was hectic.
 Scary = c.
 Loved it.
 Today was a great wake-up call to all drivers and me... The talk from talk number 1 was great and I really liked it.
 It was good. I think it was a great insight to what can happen. I think it might possibly, hopefully wake some people up to the reality of what can happen and what does happen.
 Good and helpful - will check my car with new education about them.
 Graphic details/real accounts of horror get through to us.
 All of them gave me an understanding of the effects of alcohol and drugs and what to do in case of an emergency.
 I won't drink drive x 2
 Loved it x 2
 More interaction and practical x 10

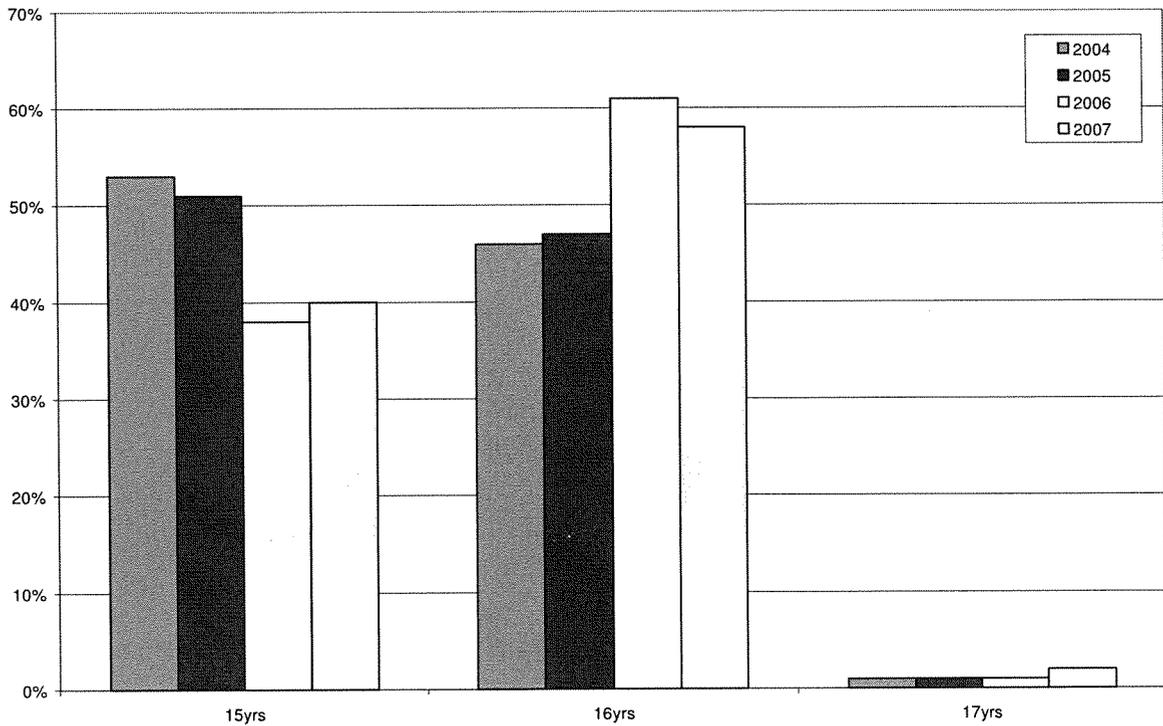
Very good/good/great/well done x 17
More physical activities and demonstrations to influence people's choices x 6
I wouldn't change anything x 3
Helpful/useful/educational/informative x 4
Free lunch/food/lollies in bowls x 4
Keep using/longer on the beer goggles x 2
Young people have short attention spans so it would probably be better if there was less lecturing and more interactive things
To include a little more hands on things to involve us, not always just sitting and listening, but generally it was interesting and helpful
I think more visual aids would be good
A few of them were totally boredom made so maybe you could make them more fun
Try to make presentations engaging and interesting x 3
A course on general driving skills
Sessions well timed.
More chairs needed
Maybe add a CPR course or something
Not really, it was an interesting well put together program
Very useful information - explained and answered very well
More hands on and more things to show examples and display the effects of an incident
Should be longer
Make the revved up section more interesting
I think it's the wakeup call some people need (even if it is a bit harsh in some sections).
To view the film in part 1.
More real accounts and graphic events.

Ages, Gender, Driving Experience

General information from participants is also collected through evaluation and is shown below.

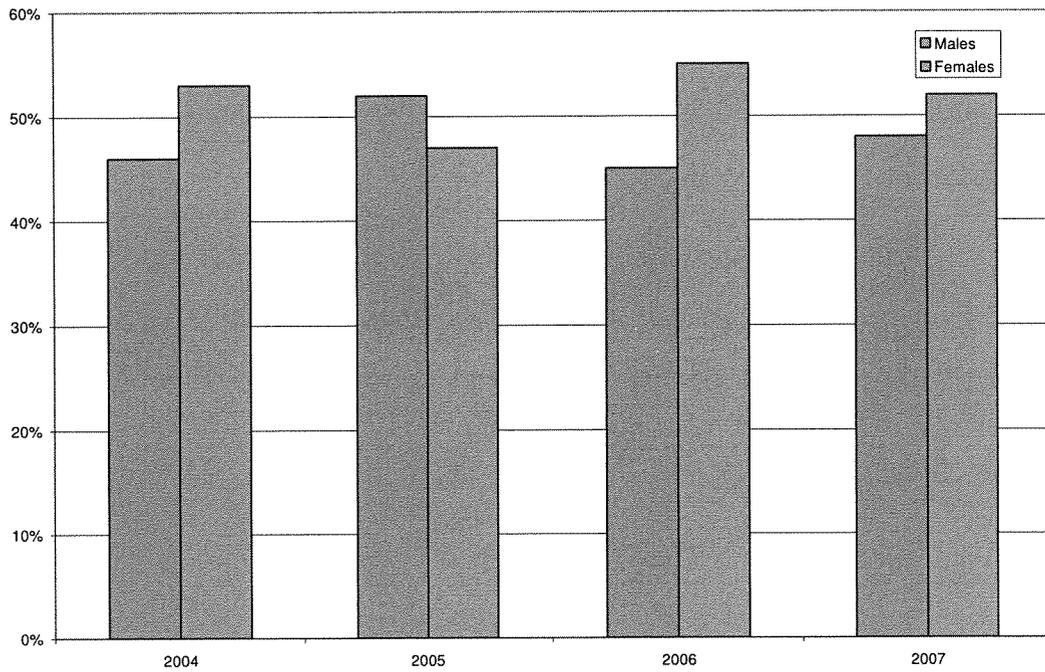
Ages

Participants are generally aged between 15 and 16 – very few 17 year olds are still at school to attend the program.



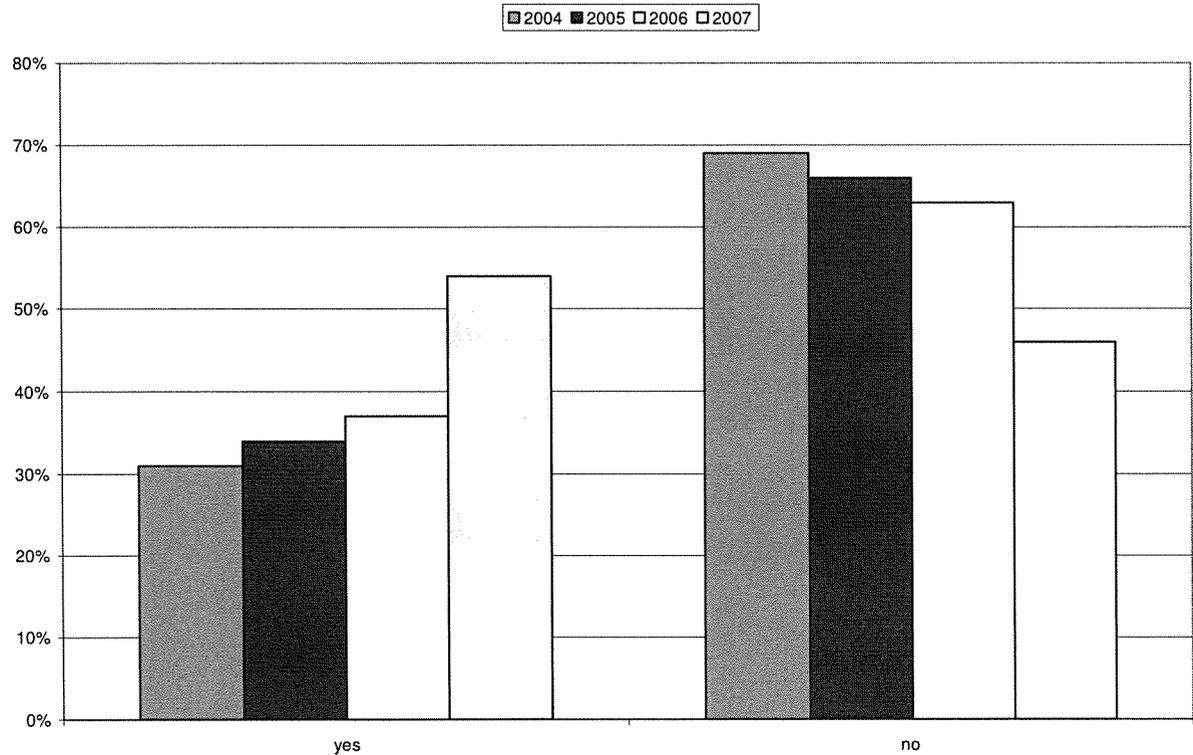
Gender

There are consistently slightly more females than males who attend the program.



Driving experience

The majority of students attending the program have not yet had experience driving on public roads.



Family involvement in the program

In 2003, 2004 and 2005 an integral component of the SKYDS program was an evening family forum. Parents and carers were invited to attend this informational session which provided a summary of the key learning points from the daytime SKYDS program that their children had attended. Families were encouraged to discuss the issues and concerns relating to road safety both during the evening and afterwards as a family unit.

While these evenings were very well received with high praise and thanks from those who attended – attendance was low and the committee sought to find an alternative means for presenting the road safety messages.



The committee agreed the most valuable approach would be the production of a DVD and the **Shoalhaven Sunrise Rotary Club of Nowra** was approached to be the major sponsor in this initiative.

Shoalhaven Sunrise Rotary Club of Nowra kindly agreed to be our major sponsor and because of their generosity the SKYDS DVD was produced and delivered to all schools for inclusion in their libraries.

In all, 1500 DVDs were produced and enough distributed to each school so that every Year 10 student could borrow the DVD at the same time.

Ross Cooper of the SKYDS committee contacted all nine Shoalhaven schools some weeks after the event in late 2006 and was delighted to hear that the DVD's have been borrowed extensively- over 50% have been taken home by students. The popularity of the DVD as a take home road safety message ensures that many families throughout the Shoalhaven are receiving excellent tips and advice on how to help keep young people safe on our roads.

The DVD has proven to be a far more effective vehicle for delivering the message than the previously held family forums and the committee once again thanks the **Shoalhaven Sunrise Rotary Club of Nowra** for providing the financial resources to make this DVD possible.

Funding and Support

This program is delivered to students of the Shoalhaven free of charge to them. Presenters and program advisors donate their time and expertise to the program in the interests of community service and road safety.

Venues for the program are kindly donated, as are many of the resources and materials made available to the students on the day.

While we endeavour to keep the cost of running the program to a minimum there are always some costs and charges involved and to cover these expenses we continually seek the funding support of businesses, community groups and funding agencies. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the safety of our young people please contact either the Police youth liaison officer or Councils road safety officer to discuss arrangements. We are indebted to those generous groups and people who continue to support this important program including:

- **Wollongong University – Shoalhaven Campus**
- **Shoalhaven Sunrise Rotary Club of Nowra**
- **Shoalhaven City Schools**
- **NSW Ambulance service**
- **NSW Police**
- **NSW Department of Health**
- **Shoalhaven City Council**
- **Enough Is Enough Anti Violence Movement Inc.**
- **Presenters and volunteers**