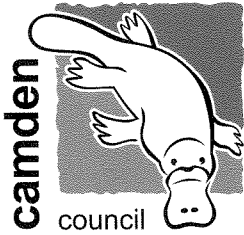


INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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Date Received: 29/11/2007



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A. WILKINSON

27 November 2007

The Committee Manager,
Staysafe Committee,
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

RE: INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Following the advise in September this year that a Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) had commenced and submissions were being sought, Camden Council considered a report at its meeting on 13 November 2007 resolving to authorise Council officers to prepare a detailed submission to the inquiry.

Accordingly, please accept as Camden Council's submission to the Inquiry:

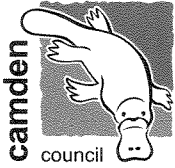
Summary of Statistical and Comparative Data

Council is currently finalising "A Strategic Approach to Road Safety for Camden Council". Funded through Council's Community Road Safety Officer Program, with supplementary grants from IPWEA and the RTA, this document aims to integrate the activities of all areas of Council to work together towards common road safety goals.

Road safety priorities for the Camden Local Government Area (LGA) have been determined on the basis of crash and casualty statistics and in consultation with key stakeholders within the community as part of the Camden Road Safety Strategic Plan (RSSP). The priorities outlined in the strategic plan focus mainly on the key road user groups and the behaviour most likely to be involved in casualty crashes. On average, there are six serious crashes and at least two people injured in the Camden LGA every week.

Snapshot of Statistics (RTA crash data 2005):

- In Camden, people aged between 17-25 years represent 17% of the driving age population but importantly represent 34% of drivers involved in crashes;
- During 2005 there were 540 driver casualties within the Camden LGA, 35% under the age of 26 years. In contrast, only 28% of driver casualties from across the state came from this age group;
- There were a surprisingly high number of very young drivers involved in multi-vehicle crashes. 80 vehicle controllers aged 16 or less were involved in collisions with another vehicle. The majority of these children were driving cars, only 7 were riding bicycles, and three were riding non-motorised vehicles (eg skateboards);



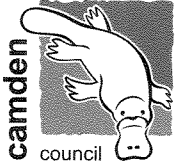
- Almost half (49%) of all single vehicle crashes involved a driver under the age of 26 years;
- As a proportion of crashes for 17-20 years - 33% of crashes were associated with speed, 22% with alcohol and 20% with fatigue; and
- As a proportion of crashes for 21-25 years – 18% of crashes were associated with speed, 28% with alcohol and 19% with fatigue.

It is likely that the main contributors to the higher statistics for Camden LGA is the lack of appropriate public transport which in turn leads to higher car ownership than many other areas within the state.

Key Road Safety Objectives and Actions

In the Camden LGA, a number of road safety initiatives aimed at younger drivers are currently being implemented. A number of these programs are run jointly with Campbelltown City Council and Wollondilly Shire Council to reach and educate young drivers across the Macarthur region. These programs include;

- Provide supported driving practice through the ***Drives for Learners in Macarthur - Log Book Run Events*** for Learner Drivers and their Supervisors. This Macarthur wide program provides opportunity for Learner Drivers to gain on road driving experience on a variety of roads in the Macarthur region. Four day time and three night time events are currently held each year. Evaluation through a survey tool has been undertaken for the 4 years this program has been implemented;
- ***Drives for Learners in Macarthur – Mentoring Project*** This project is currently being implemented in the Macarthur region and aims to target disadvantaged young people in the Macarthur region, through schools, TAFEs and youth groups, including those that are socially, economically or geographically disadvantaged. The program will include formal driving sessions with qualified driving instructors aimed at meeting the driving requirements set by the Graduated Licencing Scheme. This will be supplemented by a volunteer program developed to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the project. Evaluation is an integral part of this project;
- The ***Drive to Stay Alive*** program is offered to all Year 11 Students attending both Government and Private High Schools in the Camden LGA. The program is targeted toward educating Year 11 students in different facets of driver safety and aims to address the alarming number of deaths and injuries from road crashes in the Camden area through the delivery of practical road safety information;
- ***Bus It In Camden*** – Council has received funding from the Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme for a two year ‘Bus It In Camden’ project. This project provides funding to subsidise additional bus services for young people between the ages of 12 to 24 traveling in the Camden local government and surrounding areas on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The project incorporates funding for additional bus services to be provided for young people to attend key one-off events in the Macarthur area. This project is in the preliminary stages of planning and Council officers are currently consulting with Busways and young people to determine the best times and locations to run these extra services;
- ***Arrive Alive Grant*** - In late 2006, Council was successful in gaining an Arrive Alive Grant for \$10,000 from the Motor Accident Authority (MAA). This grant was to provide funds for a youth developed and implemented road safety campaign based on the themes of driver distraction and passenger behavior. From this grant a DVD



that included a montage of movie footage, stills, graphics, animation and typography all cut to the beat of rap poetry and sound effects was created. This project provided a valuable opportunity for young people to communicate the dangers of driver distraction and to learn valuable skills in filmmaking; and

- Conduct **Graduated Licencing Scheme (GLS) workshops** for the parents/supervisors of Learner Drivers. This program provides support and practical advice for parents about the risks to young drivers 16-24 and including the impact of their own behaviour on their children.

In addition to these important initiatives being introduced to the Camden LGA and the Macarthur Region, several locally based initiatives are being planned and implemented.

These include:

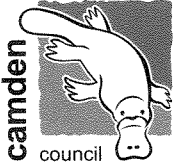
- Support Party Safe Programs and provide Party Safe packs for community facilities for hirers of venues;
- Promote “a safe ride home” education program for passengers on issues of driving with intoxicated young people;
- Work with schools, TAFEs, Universities and youth groups to address road safety issues for young people; and
- Continue to incorporate road safety as a component of the Youth Strategy under the Camden Social Plan.

Importantly, these programs and initiatives could be expanded and /or duplicated across the wider Sydney Metropolitan area.

Addressing Road Safety for Young Drivers

Addressing the issue of road safety, in particular as it relates to young drivers, should be based around education, enforcement, engineering and evaluation. Accordingly Council’s submission to the Inquiry wishes to highlight:

- There needs to be a consistent approach, sponsored through the State Government, to the education of our young drivers;
- There needs to be a meaningful and sustained commitment to addressing the issue of young driver safety by all tiers of government and peak industry bodies;
- An appropriate framework needs to be established which fosters consistency, cooperation and support amongst stakeholders;
- There needs to be adequate and commensurate funding allocated towards addressing the nature and impact of young driver safety;
- There needs to be a continuation and enhancement of the Local Government Road Safety Program; in particular supporting locally based Road Safety programs;
- The drafting of appropriate legislation that introduces road safety as a matter for consideration through the development process;
- The drafting of appropriate legislation that introduces tougher penalties for younger drivers;
- The drafting of appropriate legislation that introduces restrictions on the use of “performance” vehicles by younger drivers;
- An increase in funding to immediately address accident “blackspots” across the state’s arterial road network; and



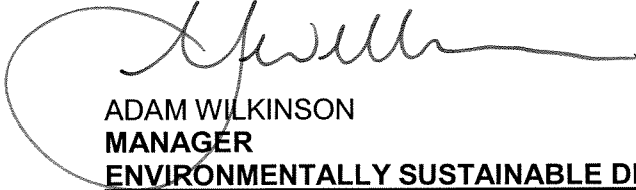
- The RTA, in consultation with the MAA, review and evaluate the many and varied existing locally based young driver programs with the aim of introducing effective and consistent State wide programs.

In summary, much of our community is dependent on motor vehicles and road crashes are becoming an issue that threatens the security and harmony of our community. In the past five years, almost four thousand of our residents have been involved in serious crashes. The human and financial costs represent a burden to the entire community, which is all the more distressing when we know that the majority of road crashes may have been avoided. Of significant concern are those crashes involving young drivers.

Council welcomes the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) inquiry into "Young Driver Safety and Education Programs" being chaired by the Member for Camden the Hon Geoff Corrigan MP.

If you require further information or clarification on any of the above please contact the undersigned on 4645 5015.

Yours sincerely



ADAM WILKINSON
MANAGER
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN