

Submission

No 11

DRIVER AND ROAD USER DISTRACTION

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Date Received: 12/04/2012

As a motorcyclist (ex Defensive riding instructor) I am very much aware of the dangers to other road users (pedestrians, cyclists & motorcyclists) of mobile phone use by car & other vehicle drivers

The practice is pandemic (I estimate that 1 in 3 car drivers at any one time) & needs to be stopped, possibly by running an efficient PR campaign that warns ALL road users of the dangers to themselves & others - make it morally irresponsible to talk or txt (which is worse) on a mobile whilst driving

Drivers don't appear to understand that even though they feel protected within their steel cages (Volvo mentality) they are still vulnerable

From my observation there appears to be 3 major demographics most at risk:-

- 1 - Mothers collecting children from school, distracted by the kids & still trying to make calls or txting, frequently in 4 wheel drives
- 2 - Tradespeople, invariably in Utes or Vans - frequently writing notes on a pad as they talk & drive or turning at intersections
- 3 - Young women (frequently on P-plates)
- 4 - Pedestrians, that's an even greater educational challenge & legal battle

Given that "hands-free" phone kits cost as little as \$49, there's no financial reason to be holding a phone to the ear whilst driving. Surely txt messages don't need to be answered immediately

It's an issue that requires an answer if we are to reduce the road toll, whether fatalities, personal injury or vehicle damage, it's an escalating cost to the Community as a whole

Many thanks for the opportunity to at least have my say

Best regards

Keith Ralfs

