

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: Shellharbour City Council
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5/1/02

Geoff Corrigan MP
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Program

Dear Mr Corrigan MP

Please find attached a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) of the Inquiry Into Young Driver Safety And Education Programs.

Shellharbour City Council strongly supports young driver safety and education programs and in regard to the Terms Of Reference, information addressing points A, D and E is included.

If you would like more information about the contents of this letter please contact Jenny Davies, Road Safety Officer on 4221 6124.

Yours sincerely

for
Arthur Webster

Arthur Webster
Director of Operations & Services

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs

Point A

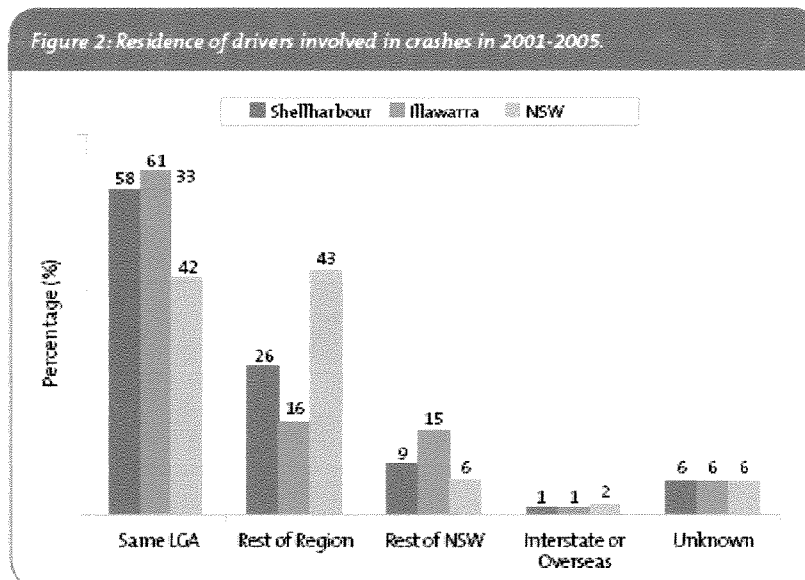
The current incident of road crashes involving young drivers in NSW

SHELLHAROUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CRASH DATA SUMMARY 2001-2005

The majority (58%) of drivers who crash in Shellharbour are local residents. Out of the 2,838 drivers involved in crashes within Shellharbour over the five years, 1,641 (58%) were local residents.

By comparison just over one quarter (26%) of those who crashed here were from other LGAs within the Illawarra Region and only 9% were from outside the Illawarra from elsewhere in NSW or interstate. Figure 2 compares the relative proportion of local drivers in Shellharbour crashes with those in the Region and the State. It is apparent that in Shellharbour (58%) and the Illawarra generally (61%), a high proportion of those who crash do so within their own LGA compared to only 42% across the whole State.

However in addition to those crashes within the local area, a review of all NSW crashes for the same period reveals that 2,507 local Shellharbour residents were involved in other crashes elsewhere in the State. This means that over the past five years, over four thousand, 4,148 local residents have been involved in a serious crash somewhere in NSW.



NOTE – Reference: Shellharbour Road Safety Strategic Plan 2007 - 2010

AGE GROUP OF DRIVERS AND RIDERS INVOLVED IN CRASHES

Young people aged under 26 years comprise a third of the drivers in Shellharbour crashes, although they represent only 16% of the driving age population of the LGA. This age group has at least twice the crash risk of other age groups. Older people were less likely to be involved in crashes relative to their representation in the population. See Figure 3.

As noted earlier, the majority of drivers (58%) who crash in Shellharbour are local residents. This is even more the case with young drivers. A comparison of the postcode on controllers' licences confirms that the majority of drivers aged under 26 were local Shellharbour residents and not visitors from other areas.

Of the total of people killed or injured in Shellharbour and Kiama between 2000 & 2005: 41% of drivers, 49% of passengers, 35% of motorcyclists, 46% of pedal cyclists and 40% of pedestrians were aged under 26 years of age.

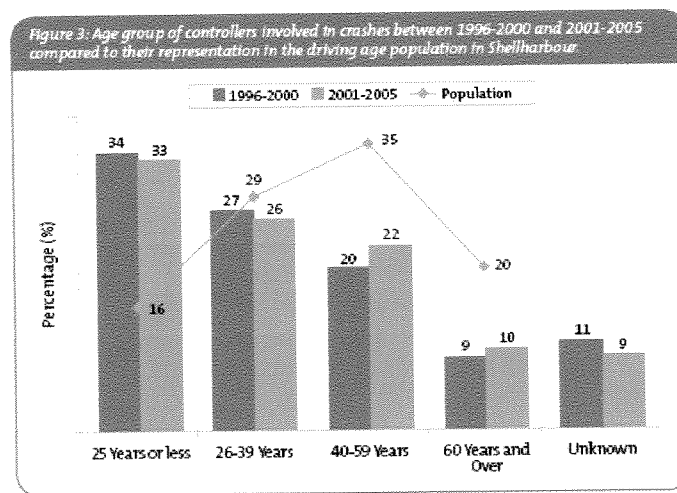
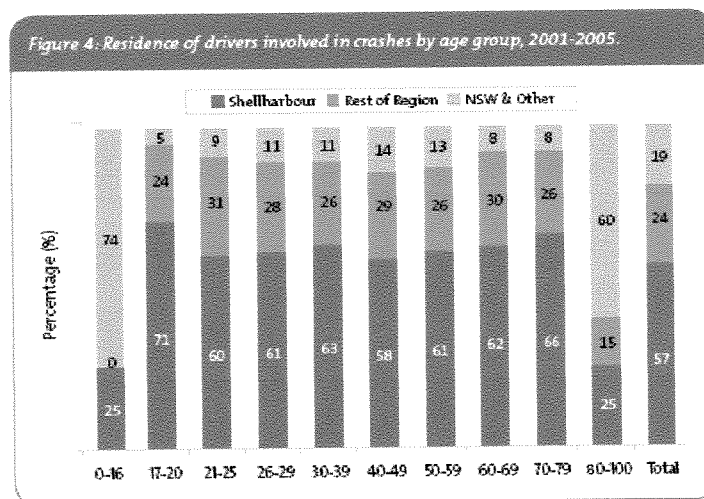


Figure 4 shows that 71% of 17-20 year old drivers, who were involved in a crash in Shellharbour were local residents. Similarly, 60% of those aged between 21 and 25 were also Shellharbour residents.



Point D

The availability and appropriateness of current diversionary and educational programs for young offenders involved in serious traffic violations.

DRIVER EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM (DEAP)

The Traffic offenders program is an option to magistrates where a person has not yet been sentenced for a traffic offence. It is also used by the Probation and Parole Services in the management of traffic offenders who are on existing probation or parole orders.

An increasing number of people are enrolling in the Lake Illawarra PCYC Driver Education Awareness Program on the advice of their lawyers before appearing in court to demonstrate to the magistrate that they are serious about improving their driving behaviour.

The driving education program is designed to increase peoples understanding of their social obligations, particularly where they relate to traffic laws. When sentencing a traffic offender, a magistrate may take into account any changes of attitude displayed since they attended the driving education program.

The Lake Illawarra PCYC Driver Education Awareness Program sessions include:

- NSW Police Workshop
- NSW Ambulance Workshop
- Illawarra Headway Workshop
- Road Safety Officer Workshop
- Insurance / Drink Drive Workshop
- Legal/ R TA Workshop

NSW Police Workshop

This session is conducted by a NSW Police Officer. The session aims to increase awareness of the factors that are associated with road accidents including drink driving, speeding and dangerous driving. It will also highlight the hazards likely to be encountered with inexperienced drivers and provide the participants with an insight from the Police perspective.

NSW Ambulance Workshop

Participants are given an overview of the NSW Ambulance Service. They are given some basic information on First Aid and handling a road crash, and how to reduce their chance of being a statistic. They then view some confronting footage of real incidents and have the opportunity to experience to some extent the role of the Ambulance Officer.

Illawarra Headway Workshop

The Manager of Illawarra Headway will provide an overview of the services offered. People injured in motor vehicle accident share their life changing experiences with participants. This is a powerful session that receives excellent feedback.

Road Safety Officer Workshop

The Council Road Safety officer will provide the participants with statistics from the local area, compared to other areas, and further work with the group to discuss methods of Road Safety Education within the Community and Media.

Insurance / Drink Drive Workshop

This session will cover the insurance available and how insurance premiums are determined in relation to perceived risks. It provides an opportunity to ask questions regarding coverage, vehicle accessories, etc in relation to insurance. Further the Drink Drive Coordinator will give an overview of his role, and site local community initiatives.

Legal/ Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Workshop

In this lecture a legal aid solicitor will impart the legal ramifications of breaching the Australian Road Rules. The session will outline basic legal responsibilities as a driver and provide information of a legal nature regarding issues related to driving.

The final part of the program is provided by the Manager of the local RTA, who provides an overview of the RTA's role and will clarify all questions of regaining a licence after suspension, cancellation and other related issues.

Point E

The efficacy of young driver education programs and the potential for development and expansions of these programs, subject to proper evaluation.

HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFER DRIVERS PARENT WORKSHOPS

The Shellharbour City Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) hold free 2 hour workshops for parents and supervisors of learner drivers. The Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers course offers parents and supervisors practical advice on how to provide effective driving practice and plan for the 120 hours of mandatory Log Book practice hours that requires a variety of road conditions.

The RTA recognises the important role parents and supervisors play in advising and supporting novice drivers and as such has developed this course to support and better prepare them for the job.

The course covers topics such as how to use the Learner Driver Log Book, how to plan on-road driving sessions, how to deal with difficulties that may arise during driving practice and the importance of giving the learner constructive feedback. Parents and supervisors who attended the course previously found it boosted their confidence, helped them better plan driving sessions and allowed them to share their experiences with other parents and supervisors.

ROTARY YOUTH DRIVER AWARENESS PROGRAM (RYDA)

The RYDA program is a road safety education program aimed at reducing death and injury amongst young people on Australian roads. The Program targets 16 to 17 year olds who are at the stage of their lives where they start to drive or ride in a vehicle driven by their peers.

RYDA is a community-based initiative of Rotary Clubs, partnering those organisations in our community that have a responsibility for, or interest in, road safety for our youth. It has been developed in consultation with the RTA and the NSW Government Departments of Education and Training, Health and Police and is designed to compliment and supplement the school curriculum and government road safety messages.

RYDA focuses on attitude and awareness with the aim of helping young adults become better people on the road. The program highlights the privilege and responsibilities of owning and driving a motor vehicle and also illustrates their rights and responsibilities as passengers and pedestrians. It is a one-day event held at a non-school site which co-ordinates the efforts of local road safety experts, driving instructors, the Police, recovering survivors or road crashes, drug & alcohol educators and financial services personnel. Students attend six sessions in the one day. An overview of each session follows:

Stopping Distances

Students are shown the impact of differing speeds, reaction time and vehicle traction on the length of time that it takes to stop a vehicle. They are given the opportunity to travel in a vehicle, driven by a licensed driving instructor, as well as observe from outside. The importance of the condition of the vehicle is emphasised along with the impact of road conditions.

Hazard Perception

An interactive discussion aimed at familiarising students with the most common crashes involving young people. By establishing what hazards are, how to anticipate them and strategies to avoid them, students gain valuable knowledge, encouraging a development of their attitudes towards safe driving.

Safe Celebrating and Fatigue

An interactive discussion about the effects of drugs, alcohol and fatigue on person's reaction time and ability to make decisions whilst driving. Through the use of workshops, students identify alternative actions and contingency plans to ensure they are celebrating safely.

Your Choice – Police

Presented by the local Police students are shown a video containing documentary footage of a young lady whose life is cut tragically short on the night of her 18th birthday party after a crash involving alcohol and excessive speed. The Police Officer invites an open discussion with the students about the video and its themes.

Accidents Do Happen – Personal stories from road crash survivors

A powerful presentation by a crash survivor who has a brain injury as a result of a vehicle crash. The session demonstrates to students that car crashes can happen to them and that such crashes leave permanent trauma for the survivor, their families and the community at large.

Finance & Insurance

An interactive presentation, involving roll-plays aiming to raise the levels of financial literacy in relation to insurance, registration, buying a vehicle and other related topics.

Point F

Other initiatives to improve young driver safety.

LEARNER LOG BOOK RUN

Shellharbour Council is taking a proactive approach by providing the community with programs such as the Graduated Licencing Scheme Parent Workshop and the Learner Log Book Run offering support and advice of how best to deal with the recent changes in the licencing system.

The Learner Log Book Run is a strategy developed by Shellharbour City Council, Lake Illawarra PCYC and is supported by Kiama Municipal Council and the Illawarra Road Safety Group to help Learner Drivers complete the compulsory 120 hours of driving experience required to get their Provisional Licence.

The Learner Log Book Run provides young drivers and their supervisors the opportunity to participate in a planned drive which follows a route that includes a range of driving experiences. Young people will experience a Random Breath Test (RBT) with police in a non threatening environment. Speeds will be monitored with Council Speed Check equipment and a Driver Reviver site is set up to address how to deal with fatigue.

It is important to educate young people early in their driving career about behavioural issues that could one day save their lives.

B4U DRV (BEFORE YOU DRIVE – YOUNG DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM)

B4U-DRV' is a 1day workshop aimed at Learner, P1 and P2 drivers, where they will be challenged to look at the risks and responsibilities of driving.

The program is offered outside school hours to provide all young drivers and practising drivers including students from TAFE or university with an opportunity to education that would normally be offered within the school system.

The **B4 U DRV** program has been developed as a direct result of ongoing partnerships between Lake Illawarra PCYC and Shellharbour City Council in response to feedback from participants of the Driver Education Awareness Program (DEAP).

Sessions include Maintaining your vehicle, Crash investigation Unit, Headway Brain Injury Group, Keeping your L's and Ps, First at the scene of an accident, Safe Celebrating, Getting Your Licence and Road Safety – It's Your Choice.