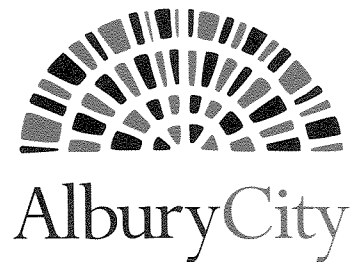


INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: Albury City Council
Name: Ms Kate Kohne
Position: Road Safety Officer
Date Received: 26/11/2007

Reference: 50/75/0010
Contact: Kate Kohne

22 November 2007



Mr Geoff Corrigan,
Chair
Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety
Macquarie Street
Sydney
NSW 2000

Dear Mr Corrigan,

Subject: Young Driver Submission



Please find enclosed a submission from Albury Council in relation to the inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

The submission has been written by AlburyCity's Road Safety Officer and has been authorised by Mr Les Tomich, AlburyCity General Manager.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with this inquiry. Should you have any questions in relation to this submission, please contact Ms Kohne on (02) 60238724.

Yours faithfully

Kate Kohne
Road Safety Officer



Inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs
The Albury Perspective.

Young drivers are over-represented in all fatal crashes. These drivers make up 15 percent of drivers but represent around 36 percent of road fatalities annually (NSW Roads and Traffic Authority web-site 2007).

Incidence of road crashes.

Between the years 2002 and 2006, Albury had 1481 road crashes. Over 13% of these crashes (198) involved a young driver (aged 17 to 25 years), resulting in 264 casualties. The majority of 17-25 year-old vehicle controllers involved in the crashes were male (65%), and 11% (22) of the crashes involving young drivers occurred between midnight and 6am.

Underlying risks and contributing factors

The Road Safety Officer program at AlburyCity conducts behavioural road safety programs throughout the City. The Road Safety Officer has opportunity to speak with community members of all ages in relation to road safety and anecdotally the underlying risks and main factors contributing to young driver crashes are inexperience, inattention and speed.

Initiatives to improve young driver safety

Any educational programs/initiatives that target the areas of inattention, inexperience and speed would be welcomed in Albury, particularly those providing assistance with gaining additional driving hours of experience, subsidised cost of lessons with professional driving instructors and those supporting harsh penalties for driving offences – particularly speeding, drink drive, non-use of seatbelts, use of mobile phones and hoon driving.

The required 120 hours of driving experience with the 20 hours of night driving for 'L' Plate drivers, is an important step toward helping young drivers gain more experience. Yet for some, the presence of a licensed driver committed to assisting with achieving these hours and a car in which to practice presents a significant barrier. Partnership Programs developed that match 'L' Plate drivers with a licensed driver and the use of a car are necessary to assist some 'L' Plate drivers in gaining the required experience. This program would require significant funding and involve volunteer drivers, subsidised cost of professional instructors, cars and insurance. It is expected however, that program such as these would help reduce the number of 'L' Plate drivers providing false log book hours.

In all, Albury Council is concerned with the high rate of young driver road crashes, and will support where possible any initiatives introduced to help curb the high incidence of this road trauma.

Signed



Kate Kohne
Road Safety Officer

Authorised



Mr Les Tomich
General Manager AlburyCity