

**Submission
No 7**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

Name: Mr Michael MacLaurin
Date Received: 14/12/2016

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December 14, 2016.

Good afternoon,

I am writing in relation to an article in last Sunday's telegraph relating to a rising road toll involving older drivers, I am one of these drivers and whilst I do have concerns relating to this area I also have serious concerns in how the learners test is carried out.

I am married to [REDACTED] who has for a number of years been trying to obtain her Australian drivers license, now I have no problem at all with anyone obtaining a license as long as they obtain it in a lawful and correct manner. My problem is in the way these theory tests are carried out. If one looks at the roads and maritime internet site the road user's handbook is available in ten languages, yet the road signs are in only English and the applicant is supposed to have a basic knowledge of English, yet the applicant can complete the theory test in their own language and there has never been any assessment by roads and maritime staff to ensure that that English is actually understood that I have seen. We are an English speaking country and whilst I always respect the history of any person I also expect that the basic requirements of Australia should be English. On several occasions I have been in vehicles with [REDACTED] driving and on most occasions their driving ability is absolutely atrocious. I have also seen a factual TV show involving a collision of 2 vehicles where police required translators for both drivers, yet both drivers held a NSW drivers license.

I do believe that this area of concern must be impacting on road safety and whilst I do accept the history of all people I do find it difficult to accept that a driver who may not understand the road signage has a valid drivers or learners license and places all other uses at risk, so that political correctness can take a priority.

Regards,

Michael MacLaurin.