

**Submission
No 9**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

Name: Mr Barry Cole

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14 December 2016

Mr Greg Aplin MP
Committee Chair
Staysafe Committee
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Aplin

**Elderly to Face Tough Test to Keep Driving
Call for Submissions to the Inquiry**

Reference is made to the above as reported in The Sunday Telegraph 11 December 2016.

It is disappointing that this hardy perennial has been raised once again. To be effective, good laws must be practical and non discriminatory and I believe 'tough new tests' are neither and will cause additional undue worry and stress for senior drivers.

I believe the current assessment system, whilst being relatively severe, should remain in place given the good driving records of older drivers. Tough new regulations could unnecessarily force some to cease driving due to some insignificant matter and provide a crushing blow to a person's self esteem, independence and mobility.

In support of older drivers, I would respectfully ask that the following points be considered in the forthcoming Staysafe review.

With respect to the Telegraph article, there are three broad references to fatalities in the over 70's age group. This needs further clarification as there is no differentiation between pedestrians, passengers or drivers at fault or not at fault.

That older people are soft targets for street assaults. A car provides security.

Good road manners. One does not see seniors indulging in road racing, 'wheelies', 'doughnuts', tail gating or rapid acceleration.

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Skills and experience gained over the years driving many types of vehicles should be taken into consideration.

Road rage incidents reported in the press are confined to other age groups.

I believe administration costs of conducting additional large scale assessments would far out weigh any benefit.

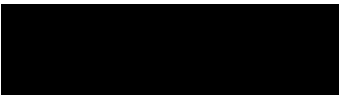
Many older drivers are self restricting and limit their driving to local familiar areas and local communities.

Unfortunately, we live in an over regulated society and I believe 'tough new rules' will be perceived by many as just another way to remove seniors from the road.

In closing, it would be appreciated if my submission could receive consideration in the forthcoming Staysafe committee review and I look forward to your reply.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please call on 

Yours sincerely



Barry Cole

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