

**Submission
No 15**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

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Date Received: 13/02/2017

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Staysafe Committee's discussions on road safety.

I have just turned 75 years young and recently received the doctors assessment form in the mail and successfully complied with its requirements to retain my right to hold an LR, R Licence. (6854RW)

Age is only a state of mind in clear thinking healthy people, and an attitude of awareness and consideration for others is the major factor in a competent driver. Unfortunately this is not taught to novice drivers. But we suggest it should be. Perhaps even to the extent of a psychological evaluation. Why is it easier to get a driving licence than a gun licence. Both things are deadly in incompetent hands.

Accordingly, it concerns me that no amount of training or retraining or retaking knowledge tests might be seen as the answer to lessening the road toll. This would be an unnecessary and stressful burden to be placed on the elderly. The only situation where this would be useful would be in a case of dementia or such which would be readily picked up by the doctor test anyway.

Physical skills may decline in some, but as long as their mental attitude remains stable, there should be no barrier to retaining a driver licence unless the physical impediment is so severe it makes safe driving impossible.

Basically we believe every aged driver licence applicant would be better served by each being treated as an individual situation rather than a blanket rule that lumps everyone into the same category.

From my personal experience, the current doctor examination system would seem to be more than adequate in that it is quite comprehensive enough to reveal both physical and mental deficiencies in an aged driver.

But I feel obliged to mention although probably too much of a stretch to even consider, that some deaths may have actually been what could be considered to be automotive suicide (like when accidents happen for no obvious reason).

In a world where we have youth taking their own lives over adverse verbal comments on social media and bullying in schools that mature people would just ignore as the comments of idiots, we would say that "anything" is possible.

I don't envy the job of the committee one little bit.

The only reason I make this submission is I feel strongly that consideration for the stress that can be caused by the very thought of a person losing their independence by having their licence revoked for a less than genuine reason must be avoided at all costs. A stressed out driver is inherently an unsafe driver. Hopefully any additional legislation would be drafted bearing these points in mind.

thank you

Eddie Tredrea