

**Submission
No. 31**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

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Current training methodology is inadequate, in that drivers receive little or no training in defensive driving, hazard avoidance, substance abuse, distractions, attitude to roadcraft, speed gradient impacts, etc. When I received my drivers license in New York in 1969, the government had implemented a very successful program of driver training within the school curriculum. The course was voluntary, but as an incentive to participate, you could get your license one year early (at 17) if you completed the course successfully. It consisted of one three hour classroom session per week for a semester, plus practical training in dual control cars, all provided by professional driver trainers. All license testing conditions still had to be met.

This program produces far better drivers, more mature and with better skills, than spending 120 hours learning your parents' bad habits. Every classmate of mine passed their test the first time, and I am not aware of any serious accidents among any of them (approaching 50 schoolmates) in the ensuing 48 years!

Finally, speeds must be reduced by road design and calming devices. Posted limits coupled with high fines have only a limited effect. Speeds on quiet residential streets must be controlled to 40kph everywhere, and speeds generally should be controlled to 10-20kph below where they are now. Research shows this one change will dramatically reduce the road toll.