

**Submission  
No. 48**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY**

**Name:** Mr John Ferranda  
**Date Received:** 20/02/2017

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

Dear Mr Aplin,

I am writing to you in regards to The Sunday Telegraphs 11 December 2016 article "Elderly to face tough test to keep driving".

It is amazing that we over 70, seem to be discriminated once again. The article advises that between the ages of 60 and above, 103 people died on our roads. That's 27.8% of all fatalities.

If we look at the same stats it is said that between 60 and 69 years, 39 fatalities or in percentage 10.5% occurred and between 70 and above, 64 fatalities or 17.29% occurred. The remainder must be between 16 and 60 years is 72.16%

The figures above point to a possible problem due to something that is not only age related, it is dynamic.

There are many variables that may need to be studied over some time to include the following dynamics that are impacting the above figures:

1. Ability
2. Speed
3. Road rule applications
4. Experience driving on the road, short and long distance driving
5. Health, general and mental
6. Pedestrians fatalities
7. Passengers or drivers fatalities
8. At fault or not at fault driver

However Age is not a reason to discriminate to put on a mandatory test for a driver that has been a safe driver for many years or has just turned 75. The health of an individual at 75 or above is no different than of a person 75 and under. If a person can drive safely than the DMT has no grounds to get involved or to harass people over 75. If there is a health issue it's between the individual and their GP and if there is safety concern due to health than the health professional should have authority to remove the license on the health grounds and be mandated irrespective of age to report it to a central organization that will or can take further actions, removal and re-instatement within an approved process..

To be effective good laws must be practical and non discriminatory and I believe "tough new tests" are neither as they will cause additional undue worry and expense (cost) for the individual and the federal government through Medicare for dubious outcomes.

In fact what the DMT and the State Government policies are doing is increasing cost for all NSW residents for a minimal benefit or reduction of accidents and or deaths on our roads when a plateau is reached. Whatever one does the plateau figures will fluctuate up and down by a percentage due to many variables but nothing concrete that if we do this it will go down to 0%.

Have you considered how many will you protect for the cost of the total testing on all drivers over 70?

Good road manners are evident as seniors are not indulging in road racing, wheelies, doughnuts, tail gating or rapid acceleration.

Skills and experience gained over many years driving many types of vehicles, this should be taken into consideration. Road rage incidents reported in the press are results from other groups.

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

The cost of conducting additional large scale studies will far out weight any benefits.

In addition poor public service demands that public is mobile in order to get to their appointments weather to doctor or family and be fair.

No driver whatever age plans to drive and not return home, however accidents do happen and there will always be accidents that no study will prevent and be part on your list.

Unfortunately we live in an over regulated society that wants control over everyone and using "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 receives consideration in the forthcoming Staysafe committee review and look forward to your reply.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please call me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

John Ferranda

IT Computer Business Analyst Programmer