

**Submission
No. 63**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

Name: [REDACTED]
Date Received: 02/03/2017

[REDACTED]
23RD FEBRUARY 2017

Stay Safe Committee.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to outline the driving history of my father and mother who live in a small country town. Dad is now 97 and as a family we have had to insist that dad stop driving much to Mum's chagrin.

My dad has had the same country GP for 30 years and in the last six years Dad has been going downhill with short term memory loss. We (his three daughters) live in Sydney and Mum who has macular degeneration lost her license eight years ago. She fiercely defends their independence, and despite well meaning community people and ourselves being critical of Dad's driving nothing would dissuade her.

As a family we rang the doctor on two occasions. Last year Dad saw the gerintologist in a bigger town to assess dads driving and he passed him. He is a friend of Dad's. Dad does not know how old he is or what medications to take and not capable of driving up the street, parking the car, buying a loaf of bread and then coming home on his own.

It was ridiculous. I saw the doctor personally before Christmas and asked him to rescind the license and he said he will refer him on to the gerintologist in January.

I think older people sometimes are very good at hiding what they don't know and can come across as quite coherent.

Perhaps the gerintologists who assess these older drivers in country areas needs to be independent and come from Sydney? The doctor remains loyal to the patient, its obvious and it's a close community in country areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to write a submission. I am happy to help further if needed.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]