

REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY ISSUES FOR FUTURE INQUIRY

Organisation: St John Ambulance (NSW)

Date Received: 13 September 2018

St John Ambulance (NSW)

First on Scene

Saving Lives through First Aid

The Issue

The current road safety strategy of “Towards Zero” has seen the NSW government develop a wide range of remedial and punitive initiatives including improved roads, increased policing, increased penalties and increased driver awareness of issues such as driver fatigue. Unfortunately the NSW road toll continues to climb. Whilst all these measures are designed to decrease the number of deaths on NSW roads, they focus on the driving environment and driver behaviour rather than skill development.

A New Initiative

St John Ambulance (NSW) would like to propose a new preventative strategy designed to reduce road accident fatalities based on skill development.

The First on Scene Program is targeted at learner drivers in NSW and aims to include the completion of compulsory first aid training by all learner drivers as a pre-requisite to obtain their Level 1 Provisional Licence.

This program developed by St John Ambulance (NSW) and hopefully supported in legislation and delivery by the NSW Government, would provide first aid training to all NSW drivers applying for their learners’ permit. Learner Drivers in NSW would complete 5 hours of first aid training as part of their 120 hours of driver training to become “road ready”.

First on Scene training would focus on providing immediate and effective treatment to persons involved in a motor vehicle accident (MVA). Training would be based on learner drivers developing skills which could prevent the three (3) leading causes of death in an MVA¹ ;

- Controlling bleeding (30% of pre-hospital deaths in an MVA)
- Clearing Airway obstruction & airway maintenance
- Cardiac Arrest – Perform CPR

Research has shown that if the first person on the scene of a motor vehicle accident has first aid training, and provide support to injured persons within 5-7 minutes of the accident, they can mitigate the primary causes of death listed above and overall fatalities, and reduce serious life-long injury, such as acquired brain injury through asphyxiation.

No other single measure has the potential to reduce the NSW annual road toll by such a significant amount.

First on Scene, empowers both drivers and passengers to play an active and critical role in increasing survival rates from road accidents by using first aid training to act immediately after a road accident and increase survival rates by up to 13% ².

We know that over 294,665 individuals applied for a learners' permit in the 12 months ending 31 March 2018. Of these 201,109 or 68% were aged between 16 and 24 years of age³. This age group are very mobile, recent research tells us that they have a high sense of responsibility for their health and the health of others and they strongly believe in "just good old lending a hand". They want to make the world a better place and are prepared to take responsibility and drive change.⁴

Compulsory first aid training is currently a part of driver training in 11 European countries including Germany, Austria and Switzerland and they are already starting to see the benefits of a trained and mobile first aid force.

Over 33% of 15-17 year olds aspire to buying a car and over 32% of them stated that their favourite thing to do was to be out and about with their friends⁵. The inclusion of first aid training in a learners permit for these mobile, concerned and action orientated young adults has the potential to have a greater impact on achieving the road safety strategy, of lowering road fatalities to zero, than any other single measure.

Why St John Ambulance (NSW)?

St John Ambulance (NSW) has an extensive metropolitan, regional and remote network throughout NSW. We currently have over 3000 highly trained volunteers available to work with learner drivers across the state. We can provide easily accessible training and assessment centres across metropolitan and regional NSW. The vast St John volunteer networks are already very active in their local communities and have the skills and training to provide local support and assessment. St John Ambulance currently provides first aid training to over 55,000 NSW residents each year.

The First on Scene training course would be delivered using the latest technology combining both on-line and practical learning techniques to full engage the 16-24 target audience. Both the online and practical components of the training will utilise real life scenarios, videos, gameification and virtual reality to ensure that the training is contemporary, relevant and retained. The training will focus on not only providing the students with the knowledge to provide first aid in the three primary areas discussed earlier, but also to provide them with the confidence to act and use these skills in a genuine emergency situation. Skills would be assessed at local assessment centres within easy reach of both metropolitan and regional students.

We believe that the introduction of first aid training in key trauma areas for all learner drivers offers the NSW government the most significant and cost effective opportunity to reduce the state's road toll and save over 50 lives each year.

References

1. ROAD ACCIDENT RESEARCH UNIT & NICHOLAS CLARK & ASSOC. (1985). Rural Road Accident Study Literature Review. Working Paper, no. 2/85, Part 2. South Australia Department of Transport, Division of Road Safety, Adelaide, South Australia. S
2. MABBOTT, N (2001) Harm Minimisation for Victims of Road Trauma ARRB Transport Research Ltd
3. Roads and Maritime Services NSW – Table 2.1.6 Licence class by licence type by licence holders age group as at 31 Mar 2018.
4. ALBERTI, B (2014). C Space Research – Gen Z and the Future of Mobility – What Moves Me?
5. UMR Research 2012 – Generation Z – Insights into the lifestyles and aspirations of young Australians.

References & Related Articles

- ALBERTI, B (2014). C Space Research – Gen Z and the Future of Mobility – What Moves Me?
- ANDREASSON, R. (1979). First aid at the Scene of an Accident. *Journal of Traffic Medicine*, Vol.7, No.3, pp. 14-15.
- ARBON, P & HAYES, J (2007). First Aid and Harm Minimisation for Victims of Road Trauma: A Population Study, Flinders University and NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust
- BREHM, S. S. & KASSIN, S. M. (1993). *Social Psychology* (Second Edition). Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, USA.
- BRODSKY, H. & HAKKERT, A. S. (1984). Rescue of the Injured in Road Accidents in Israel. *Journal of Traffic Medicine*, Vol 12 (2), pp. 19-22.
- CHRISTIE, R. (1983). Compulsory First Aid Training for Drivers: A discussion of the Pertinent Issues. Traffic & Safety Department, RACV Ltd, Victoria, Australia.
- COATS, T.J. & DAVIES, G. (2002). Prehospital Care for Road Traffic Casualties, *British Medical Journal*, Vol 324, 11 may 2002.
- EUROPEAN TRANSPORT SAFETY COUNCIL (1999). Reducing the Severity of Road Injuries through Post Impact Care, Brussels.
- FORD, K. A. (1998). Emergency First Aid Road Care for Motor Driver Licence Holders in Western Australia. St John Ambulance Australia: WA Ambulance Service Inc. Road safety recommendation lodged with Office of Road Safety on 26-10-98.
- GILROY, D. (1985). Deaths (144) from road traffic accidents occurring before arrival at hospital. *Injury*, Vol 16, pp. 241-242.
- GRAY, R. G. & SHARPE, G. S. (1972). Doctors, Samaritans and the Accident Victim. American Association for Automotive Medicine Conference. Proceedings of the American Association for Automotive Medicine Conference, pp. 162-198.
- HOSSACK, D. W. (1972). The patterns of injuries received by 500 drivers and passengers killed in road accidents. *Medical Journal Australia*, Vol 2, p. 193.
- HUSSAIN, L. M. & REDMOND, A. D. (1994). Are pre-hospital deaths from accidental injury preventable? *BMJ*, Vol 308, 23 April, pp. 1077-1080.
- KHANGURE, E. (1998). Preventable Pre-Hospital Deaths from transport Injuries: An interim report. St John Ambulance Association, Perth, WA.
- KOMESAROFF, D. (1978). Resuscitation at the site of a road accident. *Australian Family Physician*, Vol. 7, pp. 407-418. LEWIS, B. (1983). Death in the First Ten Minutes. *British Medical Journal*, Vol 286, pp. 1768-1769.
- KURECKOVA, V et al (2017). First Aid as an Important Traffic Safety Factor – Evaluation of the Experience-Based Training, European Transport Research Centre, Brno, Czech Republic.
- KURECKOVA, V. (2015). First Aid as an Important Traffic Safety Factor, Transport research Centre, Czech Republic.
- MABBOTT, N (2001) Harm Minimisation for Victims of Road Trauma ARRB Transport Research Ltd

MABBOTT, N. A. & SWADLING, D. (1998). The Use of Accident Costs for Countermeasure Evaluation in Australia. State-of-the-art Review. Review report 1. ARRB Transport Research Ltd., Vermont South, Victoria, Australia. ISBN 0 86910 769 0.

MALYCHA, P. (1984). Driver Education. The Medical Journal of Australia, December 8/22, 1984, p. 780.

McVEY, I. L. (1984). Advice on the medicolegal aspects of attendance at road accidents. Australian Family Physician, Vol 13 (4) pp. 240–242.

MILLEDGE, K. (2000). Personal communication. Queensland Department of Transport.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRANSPORT SAFETY AUTHORITY (1992). National Standard Curriculum for Bystander Care.

NHTSA Technology Transfer Series, Number 32, Oct, 1992. US Department of Transportation.

First aid for drivers. JAMA, Vol 223 (10), pp 1151–1152.

ROAD ACCIDENT RESEARCH UNIT & NICHOLAS CLARK & ASSOC. (1985). Rural Road Accident Study Literature Review. Working Paper, no. 2/85, Part 2. South Australia Department of Transport, Division of Road Safety, Adelaide, South Australia. S

TATISTICS QUEENSLAND (2000). Estimated resident population by statistical division and subdivision, Queensland, 1989–1999. Queensland Treasury Office of Economic and Statistical Research.
<http://www.statistics.qld.gov.au>

TRINCA, G.W. (1978). The Concept of Total Care in the Management of Road Crash Victims. Proceedings, 2nd World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress, July 8-14, 1978, Singapore.

WALPOLE, B. G. (1984). Roadside emergencies. A casualty director's view. Australian Family Physician, Vol 13 (4) pp. 249 – 253.

UMR Research 2012 – Generation Z – Insights into the lifestyles and aspirations of young Australians.

WORTH, R. J. (1988). An outline of the present situation and future direction in emergency care of road accident victims. Road Traffic Safety seminar, Wellington, New Zealand.