

**Submission  
No 18**

## **REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY ISSUES FOR FUTURE INQUIRY**

**Name:** Mr Peter Charles

**Date Received:** 16 September 2018

Review of road safety issues for future inquiry.

Sir/Madam.

I have an interest in road safety in the vain attempt to protect my children on New South Wales and other roads. My business requires me on both city and country roads at least 5 days a week and for the last 18 plus years have been averaging in excess of 100,000 kilometers per annum.

Education - I consider the current learn to drive requirements very poor and as a consequence the new driver is off to a bad start. I see it every day, whether from a professional driving schools or from older family members not picking up simple things such as indicating to change lanes, inability to drive correctly through roundabouts, not stopping at Stop signs etc. etc.. I would like to have education taken out of the hands of the existing professional driving schools and family members and start in Schools at a younger age and eventually then move to on road training with a competent body, not the array of variable quality driving schools that NSW currently has . For an example of how to do it better, I think Germany has a pretty good system of education that we could follow. I think it's recognised there that it is a privilege to have a drivers licence.

Greater police presence on city/suburban roads with a greater effort in both education and cautioning/infringement for all misdemeanors - not just speed. One of my main concerns is around traffic lights and stop signs. Each day I see numerous near misses from drivers ignoring stop signs and red lights. Can we have police blitzes ongoing on these two items until drivers start learning not to ignore the requirements. Everything seems to come back to education.

On country roads I suggest a slight increase in speed limits and on multiple lane carriageways, and increase in limit to 130kph. I have spoken to many drivers using these motorways and all agree that long distant driving at 100/110kph with the main emphasis on watching to speed is extremely tiring. I'd like to less emphasis on speed and a far greater effort in policing fatigue.

Also on multiple carriageways, for some reason drivers want to stay in the middle and to some extent the fast lane. For safety, drivers should be travelling in the far left hand lane and only move out of this lane to overtake then move back to the left hand lane. I occasionally see the instruction on the police cars requesting this but the majority ignore the signs. I do believe very strongly that this is a very easy way of reducing accidents on motorways and a greater effort in infringing drivers will see attitudes change. Again it gets back to better education.

Finally - concentration on defective vehicles. Not everyone can afford new cars but they cannot afford for safety and their life to be driving an un-roadworthy vehicle. Simple things such as bulbs for indicators, headlamps, brake lights are regularly seen not working.