

**Submission  
No 4**

## **SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL LEARNER DRIVERS**

**Organisation:** Rotary Club of Wingham

**Date Received:** 15 April 2021

## WHY WE NEED DRIVER SIMULATORS IN OUR

### LEARN TO DRIVE PROGRAM

First little history of myself, for a little over 40 years I have been involved in community service and the main part of that has been with a driver awareness program which has been remarkably successful in the one I managed in the Mid Coast LGA which was over 13 years with professionals running each of the six modules. In that time, we only lost two young people, only one these had done the program, the enquires I made I was assured it was just an accident and no fault of his, as the program had been such a success, I decided to take it to 7 other regions in the northern part of NSW and I believe they are still running under different management.

Having discussed this with other people who insist they only want our young people to do on-road instruction and they question the need to do SIMULATOR VS. JUST GETTING ON THE ROAD "the question I would ask is "why wouldn't you want your child to learn in a safe and controlled environment before putting them on the road?" Simulation training for drivers is no different than simulator training for an airplane pilot.

*Would you really want a novice pilot "learning to land in real time?" I doubt it. Then ask yourself the question, why would you want to put a novice driver in traffic before providing them an opportunity to develop some competence and skill in a controlled environment?*

Using a simulator, the instructor's focus is on skill development. Students can make mistakes and there are no consequences other than having to do it over again. If you are on the road you know all too well the consequences of making a mistake. An instructor's attention is split between the student and the road because they must anticipate and do everything in their power to keep everyone safe. With the simulator an instructor's full attention is on the student. If they make a mistake it creates a "teachable moment." What a better way to introduce all the necessary skill before they "hit the road."

Having spent so much time in these regions I could see there is so many disadvantaged young people.

Before I go any further, I would like to make the point I am in no way suggesting we do away with in-car training it is extremely important part of the learn to drive program. What I am suggesting is that DRIVING SIMULATORS be placed in PCYC's or with BIRRANG SUPPORT GROUP PCYC run their own SAFER DRIVER PROGRAM as well and I have seen this working very well incorporating a DRIVER SIMULATOR, WE DO HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF PCYC's

AND BIRRANG SUPPORT FACILITIES in rural NSW I know they would be incredibly pleased to add one to their (DLAP) programs.

What is the first thing a young person does when they get their learners permits, straight home to mum or dad for their first lesson so straight away they pick up the bad habits of their parents.

What I would like to see happen is they have access to a DRIVING SIMULATOR under supervision two months before they reach Learners permit age, and that would be a requirement to receive their learners permit there for no bad habits from parents or siblings.

## WHY DRIVING SIMULATORS

Starting Procedures

Correct use of pedals

Gear changing (H-pattern gear selector and paddle)

Hill start procedure (using the hand brake fitted)

Brake application (soft allows ABS on or off)

Steering techniques

Procedures for driving (systems of car control, lane position, changing lanes, leaving a parking spot, merging, **ROUNDABOUTS DEALING WITH TRAFFIC, CORNERING**)

Hazard perception

Vision through corners

## SIMULATORS CAN DEMONSTRATE

Tailgating and aggressive drivers

Not following procedures (like not shoulder checking when changing lanes)

Speeding and inappropriate speed for the conditions (fog, rain, heavy traffic)

Variable conditions (wet roads, fog, unsealed roads)

Disobeying road rules

Distracted driving (get the student to use a mobile phone or other source of distraction)

Divided attention failure (ask students to multi-task with mental load whilst driving)

Reaching for an item (ask students to pick up an item from under or behind the seat)

Alcohol impairment (using the fatal vision beer goggles supplied)

Marijuana impairment (using the Marijuana simulation goggle and software)

Concentration required for safe driving.

Fatigue or zoning out (get the student to drive along the motorway for 10 minutes)

Simulators (except the multi- million dollar 3-d hydraulic ram versions) do not realistically mimic the real physics of driving a car. Therefore, they are great training tools for novice driver training but have an endpoint where real-world training must take over.

## BUSINESS CASE FOR SIMULATORS

Using simulators, both PCYC and Birring can be involved in the education of our DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE from PRE-LEARNERS upwards. This means driver training can be taught early using the simulators to prepare drivers for their future and receiving their learner's permit. This can develop the skills and attitudes to driving over a longer period, compared with the current rush to get a license and this would have to a great help to our DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE.

Our young people start learning basic vehicle control and road awareness EVEN BEFORE THEY HAVE THEIR LEARNERS PERMIT.

Training is conducted in a safe environment without the stress of mechanical damage or crashing allowing young person to focus on the skills being taught and therefore enhancing learning outcomes.

It makes it possible to teach the young person to cope with dangerous situations that do not occur frequently on the road.

Our young people can identify and practice driving activities they are struggling with.

The simulator could be paused and/or participants can make new attempts at a scenario to enable constructive discussion.

Training is delivered in an interactive environment, where they can make mistakes and learn from them in total safety.

Head tracking (optional) creates a fully immersive environment that allows for shoulder checks and creates better spatial awareness.

The triple screen technology on the simulator is so real once students are driving, they often lean forward to look around objects- this developing both their observation skills and their vehicle control skills.

High quality of training in less time and at a lower cost.

#### LEARNING TO DRIVE IN A SIMULATOR

Learning to drive is an exciting and stressful time for many young drivers. Imagine if there was a way to alleviate some of that stress while still learning to drive in the process is that something you might be interested in? Well then let me introduce you to a driving simulator, a machine that simulates the conditions of driving a vehicle while keeping occupants safe and sound.

Could my grandson have avoided that crash when an oncoming vehicle swerved into his lane? Or my granddaughter who was involved in an incident because she did not know the proper driving procedures in the rain? Would many proponents say yes? However, many driving schools' instructors urge driver to learn the old-fashion way.

#### LESS STRESS .....MORE FUN

How many reports have you seen where a vehicle pulls out of nowhere and cause someone to crash their car? In a simulator setting, you can practice specific scariness to get a sense of what can be done to avoid these horrific accidents. In addition, less stress on the mind means more fun in the process. Games are synonym with fun, and what is more fun than playing a driver game such as GTA (GRAND THEFTAUTO or FORZA MOTORSPORTS) for a young driver. These games have allowed teenagers to operate a vehicle as a form of entertainment. Still these scenarios allow a new driver to better comprehend an environment where real-world cars are replaced with high-quality pixelated images.

#### DEALING WITH REAL-WORLD SITUATIONS

Modern driving simulators can replicate up to 400 different scenarios that teach the range of cognitive skills necessary to deal with complex traffic and roadway conditions. This allows new drivers to sharpen their reaction time in the process.

Simulators can also be used to prepare students to handle unpredictable or safety-critical tasks that may be inappropriate to practice on the road. Such as collision avoidance or risky driving. In addition, simulators make it possible to study hazard anticipation and perception by exposing drivers to dangerous driving tasks, which is an ethically challenging endeavor in real vehicles. More day-to-day operations can also be thought such as parallel parking, making proper 3-point turn and that dreadful lane changing.

One of the main causes of accidents on the road stems from driving too fast. A driver simulator can address these concerns by demonstrating what happens when a driver

Exceeds the speed limit and how their reaction time is affected in the process. There is no way to teach students this condition on the road without putting everyone in danger in the process. Study after has shown that car crashers are significantly higher in young drivers the first years of receiving a license and decrease with increased experience.

I have included a video link address for your information that can best explain all the features of the simulators that I favor <https://youtu.be/4i...iCJhb-i4>

I would also like to suggest consideration be given to the hours they have to achieve for their license having done whatever time that is decided in simulators.

There is so much I believe could be achieved by using driver simulators prior to them receiving their learner's permit.

I mentioned earlier ROUNDABOUTS what happens to those young people when they a need to travel to places like Dubbo and others same as they would not have received proper training how they enter or leave them.

Finally, by now you would see I am totally committed to do what I can to improve the opportunities for our REGIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE.

I am asking you know I am begging you to give our young people the help they need.

WE MUST DO WHAT EVER WE CAN TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ALIVE.

Ken Patterson

The Rotary Club of Wingham

08 44 75 18 72



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

To whom it may concern

Birrang was established in 2003 and has been in continuous operation since its establishment. Birrang was established as a regional based community service provider offering employment and related services to Aboriginal people of New South Wales. Over time, Birrang has expanded its activities to include people from other cultures and backgrounds, in response to identified needs and opportunities.

Birrang is contracted by the Transport NSW to deliver and facilitate a range of community-based programs.

- Reduction of and facilitation of payment plans for fines and suspensions
- Development and delivery of safe driving and parental responsibility workshops
- Customised programs for Aboriginal people to obtain their licence
- Decreasing barriers to employment and financial restraints.

As an Aboriginal organisation covering Western NSW we are aware of the obstacles facing Indigenous and disadvantaged socioeconomic groups and the difficulties in accessing the required supports in order to gain a drivers licence. Through Birrang's "Picking Up the Pieces" Program and Birrang's Driver Licencing Access Program (DLAP) we support Ken Patterson on behalf of the Bourke Rotary Club in their funding proposal put forward in getting a driving simulator here in Bourke at the PCYC or at Birrang. It would be a great asset for the community as a whole.

In the past, Birrang clients were fortunate enough to have the Rotary Club of Young who visit Bourke and give our community and clients the opportunity to use a driving simulator. We had approximately 20 (pre licence) clients in 2 days utilise the simulator and it proved helpful for the clients who needed the visual and auditory stimulations that only be gained from a 'real' driving experience. Thus, aiding not only in their learning but their overall confidence to continue in the Transport NSW licensing program.

Birrang supports clients to obtain a driver's licence providing driving lessons, support to obtain relevant documentation, to prepare for the required tests, get their licenses and case management support. I believe this project is a critical piece to removing barriers and adding support to the community, and in turn would make a real difference to the individual's lives, standard of living, employability and ultimately help with creating safer drivers resulting in safer roads.

In conclusion, Birrang Enterprise Development Company Ltd supports the proposal of acquiring a Driving Simulator as we believe that it would be of tremendous benefit to the community. We ask that you please give this proposal your full consideration.

If you have any questions, I can answer feel free to contact me on  
Kind Regards

Deb Maguire  
CEO

---

**Birrang Enterprise Development Company Limited**

9 Coillers Avenue, Orange NSW 2800 P: (02) 6361 9511 F: (02) 6360 1251 E: reception@birrang.com.au

18 November 2020

CEO202000151

To Whom it may Concern

**RE: Letter of Support – Driving Simulators**

PCYC is a Charity which Empowers Young people to achieve their potential, and for over 80 years has been getting young people active in life, and helping them develop Skills, Character and Leadership to positively contribute to our local communities.

One key area of support for young people is on the roads, through a range of engaging Driver Education initiatives.

Helping young people obtain their driver's license and be safe on our roads is a significant focus for the PCYC, and the addition of an interactive driving simulator to support these programs will help participants gain vital experience behind the wheel, prior to venturing onto the roads.

The driving simulators are completely programmable, allowing the program Mentor to simulate a wide range of driving conditions, that may not be a regular occurrence in the local region. The Simulator also allows the Mentor to include a variety of traffic hazards into the practice driving session. This will better prepare the young person for their responsibilities as a driver of a motor vehicle.

PCYC strongly supports the application to obtain Driving Simulators to support these critical Driver Education programs and help young people be safer on our roads.

PCYC has a very long history with Rotary Clubs, dating back to the first PCYC in Woolloomooloo, Sydney in 1937. Since then PCYC has worked closely with Rotary clubs in the communities we serve and are appreciative of this valued partnership.

Yours faithfully

Dominic Teakle  
CEO PCYC NSW





342 Boston Street  
PO BOX 205  
Moree NSW 2400  
(p) 02 67523741  
(f) 02 6752 8045  
[www.pycnsw.org.au](http://www.pycnsw.org.au)

ABN: 89401152271

To whom it may concern,

As the manager of the Moree PCYC, I am issuing this letter to confirm my support and commitment for a Driver Simulator for the youth of Moree. Currently, PCYC Moree runs a range of driver education programs so a Driving Simulator would be an important step towards creating the safest learning environment possible and ensuring our students learn about the risks and hazards of driving in safety.

Simulator training allows learners to practise and to develop greater competence in a wider variety of situations, in a shorter period than would be possible using traditional driver training.

The most obvious advantage of programmable, interactive driving simulators is to allow learners to be tested in different combinations of weather, road or traffic environments. A less obvious, but arguably even greater advantage is that programmable driving simulators allow the designers and managers of training to analyze complex driving tasks, manoeuvres or traffic situations and segment them into simpler task-training exercises. These can be modified to improve the efficiency of simulator-based training scenarios according to feedback from learners. Also, to program new scenarios to meet novel and evolving challenges (for example new technologies in vehicles), new traffic controls and new road configurations.

PCYC Moree runs a variety of Driver programs but the one main constant is the lack of experience-behind-the-wheel driving. A driving simulator could help the youths to understand the importance of being aware at all times. Being from regional and remote areas, young people may not be exposed to large numbers of traffic or multi-lane roads. We believe that driver simulators could help by assisting with the understanding of the many changes in the driving conditions.

PCYC Moree has connections with a majority of the youths of Moree and we believe we can work with young people to help change their attitudes regarding dangerous behaviors whilst operating a motor vehicle.

Kind regards,

Tayla Macey  
PCYC Moree Manager  
28.10.2020

PRESIDENT: GREGORY FISHER

PO BOX 31, MOREE NSW 2400

SECRETARY: MARY REINER

ABN: 11 730 353 471

TREASURER: STEVEN HARRIS

CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING: 15359

03.11.2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Rotary is renowned for its work with young people in many different fields, both in Australia and overseas. As such, Moree Rotarians who have long supported the local youth, were recently approached regarding the installation of a Driving Simulator for Moree PCYC.

Being fully aware of the daily tragedies on our roads, we believe that the use of driving simulators could go a long way towards reducing such carnage. Having worked with young, would- be drivers in the past, we understand the near impossibility of getting the message across to that bullet-proof, it-won't-happen-to-me attitude of all too many young people.

Our request for Government financial assistance was rejected by State politicians on the grounds that there is no proof that simulators help reduce the road toll. However, it stands to reason that the experience, safely gained on a simulator, must go a long way to preparing the learner driver for the real driving world. *Otherwise, why are astronauts, pilots, train drivers etc trained in this way?*

This year of the Pandemic has been devastating, health-wise, financially, emotionally and socially, for all of us. Moree Rotarians have therefore, been unable to carry out either their regular fundraising activities or their Community and Youth Service work and accordingly, are not in a position to purchase a much needed Driving Simulator for the youth of Moree.

Our PCYC consistently does remarkable work with the local youth, and we merely seek to enhance their work, by aiding the dedicated staff to produce better skilled, safer, more ng and considerate drivers.

Mary Reiner  
Secretary