

**Submission
No 6**

SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL LEARNER DRIVERS

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As a Principal of a small central school in a relatively isolated town such as Trundle NSW I witness everyday geographical inequity. This problem is dramatically increased if young people are unable to obtain a licence. The following is evident within my school:

* Students are unable to obtain employment because the nearest significant town is 67 kilometres away and public transport is not available.

* Students are educationally and socially isolated and suffer poorer health outcomes because resources are not available within the town. Indeed, our town does not have a doctor or police officer for whole weeks and specialist mental health services are only available in Orange 2 hours away.

* Many female students are marginalised and move into toxic relationships because they need the transport a man can provide. This continues the cycle of domestic violence.

The lack of transport maintains the cycle of unemployment, poverty and poor social outcomes. Currently I am using school and donated money to pay for driving lesson for students. this is not sustainable.