

**Submission
No 19**

SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL LEARNER DRIVERS

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Date Received: 12 May 2021

Telematics are low-cost and readily available and will support young drivers to stay safe. When I lived in the UK, my insurance sent me a telematic device to monitor my driving to reduce my insurance premium. There has been a successful trial in NSW already - it is urgent to now move on and get more young drivers to use there and save lives:

SIRA, in partnership with the NSW Centre for Road Safety, has completed a research trial exploring the potential for telematics to improve the safety of young drivers. The trial ran from July 2018 to March 2019 with more than 700 young drivers participating in the study. Drivers had a telematics device installed in their car, which collected data on the vehicle's acceleration, speed and braking in real time.

Results

Among young drivers who received telematics-based feedback, there were reduced rates of rapid acceleration, speeding, harsh turning and harsh braking.

What we now know is that if every young driver in New South Wales was to use this kind of technology there could be about 200 fewer crashes each year including 2 fatal crashes and 59 serious injury crashes.

Read the findings and the research report. <https://www.sira.nsw.gov.au/fraud-and-regulation/research/young-drivers-telematics-trial>

Next steps:

- Work with the insurance industry to offer telematic insurances. Subsidising these will save the government due to the potential savings in road trauma costs.
- Work with NRMA and similar organisations to educate parents about the benefits about installing a telematic device in their car when their kids start driving. An example device can be found here: <https://www.gofar.co/> It gives drivers feedback when they speed.
- Social media campaign marketed at parents to inform them about the successful young drivers telematic trial and that they can contact you for a free* device (free* only if used for 95% of trips)
- Explore if telematic devices should be made mandatory of P Plate drivers.