

**Submission
No. 62**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

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These are just my thoughts on where we should start pushing driver education for the future. Keeping in mind the new technologies that will impact on how we drive our vehicles in the future.

First and foremost is changing the age old premise that high skills saves lives. If we look at our state NSW the road toll has hit a plateau, and requires some radical change in thinking to change it.

Its all about behaviour, not skill?

How do we change the behaviour of our young drivers. This is, and must be a long term project. A sixteen year old youth has already learnt how to drive and how they should act behind the wheel well before they attempt their licence.

So realistically we need to interject in the child's growth? How can we do this?

Educate, Educate, Educate

1. Educate parents/supervisors and minders of their responsibilities to the very young impressionable child

- a. introduce educational programs into the Pre-Natal classes for parents
- b. introduce a learning package about pedestrian safety into their Pre-School learning programme
- c. introduce road Safety into primary education, first as a pedestrian/cycle safety to start building their knowledge round the driving arena
- d. Introduce road rules and driver behaviour classes into High Schools.
- e. Organising regular session about school zone and what to look for? How many family knows what are the school if they don't have kids?

By doing all the above, you may change the thought process of young children and teens in vulnerable situations, at the least, be able to question the parent who shows questionable behaviours behind the wheel. It is difficult, but something has to start the process somewhere?

2. Engage the parents/learner

- a. reward a parent for getting professional driving lessons for their child
- b. Possible free test, discounts etc
- c. Rewards for the learner/provisional driver.....?
- d. Low Risk Driving Courses through out Year 10 and 11 while they are on L's.

Its well known that rewards creates a positive atmosphere where the person will want to achieve to be rewarded with something. There is plenty of scope between the learner phase and the open driver licence for this to happen.

3. rewards could include cheaper licence, bypass some tests, cheaper registration or insurance for drivers who accumulate no demerits, or show other positive attributes.

In the end what we have to do is change the undercurrent of behaviour learnt from birth which can be the difference between life or death on our roads.

Thank you again Stay Safe Committee for taking my input and looking forward to help reducing fatality on our roads. I am available to have any further discussion about this.

Thanks and Have a great day !!!

Happy Driving!

Ronak Shah

Academy of Road Safety

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