

Road Safety Submission: Travel Safe Committee  
Monday, February 13, 2006

From: Bruce Dawson (Concerned Member of the Public)

### **Deterrents and why they don't work**

How long has it been now? We fine them, we deduct points and we even suspend driving licenses and now we confiscate cars – Nothing works Why?

Simple – You can be a bully and do all these things but unless the person involved is educate on why their actions are dangerous none of these measures will make any difference.

### **So why do we keep doing it this way?**

It is the cheap option, no doubt about it is the cheapest easiest option, well I now think it is time we stopped the easy approach and made a serious attempt to actually find a solution which will cost money but it will work.

Education is the only way they will see the error of their ways.

### **Education can be delivered in a number of ways.**

- Classrooms,
- Workshops,
- Video,
- Internet,
- Multimedia,
- 1-to1 training and
- Maybe in extreme circumstances loss of freedom until they understand.

We can teach in schools, this way everyone gets an equal level of understanding.

But the statistics tell us the main ingredients are Teenagers, Alcohol and speed.

Speed it self isn't the problem, ability to handle the conditions and the speed are.

*If speed is the cause of most accidents then that is the same as saying because a motor vehicle is involved then it must be the vehicle causing the accident – Now that sounds silly but as an experience driver that is how I see this response, because the real reasons are not the speed and not the vehicle it is the nut behind the wheel.*

**We must educate this nut behind the wheel.**

We have hundreds of car clubs and motorsport clubs in Australia; these are a great resource to educate young keen enthusiasts. Ask any motors sport competitor and you will find they value their driving license and take measures to ensure they keep their driving license.

Advanced Driver training companies are all enthusiastic about training young drivers; they are also a great asset which must be involved in any program.

**Education Delivery:**

High School 2 years a Subject as part of curriculum - 120 hrs on Road Safety, Cause and effect, Car physics, advanced driving theory Crash analysis.

Shock Video Material, but with analysis on how to avoid these shock situations. *(I am 48 years old and I still remember a Film of deaths on American Roads I saw when I was in High School – It worked alright but I would have benefited more if I knew how to avoid those incidents)*

I think the above action is a great idea and it should be introduced ASAP.

**Some ideas which will make a difference**

Practical Driving Experience on learners of at least 50 hrs driving in all conditions.

Learners permit – for 6 months not 3 months

Provisional Drivers – No teenage passengers in cars after dark,

Endorsements to Driving License carried out by private Training companies.

- Night Driving,
- Skid pan Control,
- 100+kph ability(Over taking maneuvers) etc
- When a Provisional driver has attained all endorsements then they can have a full license.

Motorsport Endorsement: The younger drivers who show some enthusiasm for fast or hot cars must be a member of a car club – no modification allow on any car unless they are a member of a Car club – this includes any changes to Tyres or Wheels. Normal Road Worthy conditions apply.

Our Points system needs to include an education element.

Mandatory Education course if a driver is involved in any kind of accident for drivers with less than 5 years experience.

There is no point disqualifying a driver, this will only mean we will now have an unlicensed uninsured driver on the road – much better to have them serve an education course.

Drink Driver number plates after a conviction of Drink Driving the drivers Registration plates are replaced with DD-9999 plates. The police are then instructed to monitor these drivers. (Do not take their licenses away, they will still drive but now the public are at risk from an unlicensed and uninsured driver)

Government Endorsement of Speed advisor devices, speed alarms, Black spot warning devices – Who cares if speed cameras are there or not that is not the point of the device. The device is to make the driver aware of the speed zone, the correct speed and if the area is a black spot in need of extra care.

### **Drink driving and habitual Speeders or Hoons.**

Hoons: If the car modification rules above apply then the driver must be a member of a car club – see this as the first line of action. The car club is advised of the situation and is instructed to educate the driver more. Police will then liaison with car clubs and maybe become more involved with all Car clubs. This could lead to many beneficial programs for the public and lift the police profile with members.

Hoons: I feel loss of Vehicle in this situation is a good measure, they still have their driver's license and they will find another car but they have lost something very dear to them. The car will mean more to them than anything so this will enforce better behavior. (I believe this is really an impounding and they do get the car back- a great idea makes them think of their stupid actions)

If that doesn't work then last resort is a loss of Freedom & More Education.

**Drink Drivers:**

Must be re-educated and if need be a loss of freedom.

**Loss of Freedom:**

NEVER is a convicted bad DRIVER, drunk, hoon or what ever to be imprisoned in a Criminal Prison – This is the most stupid thing to do.

This person has a bad driving record they are not a criminal, under no circumstances should they ever be put in with harden low life criminals, this is completely wrong.

**So a new Loss of Freedom institution is required.**

A live-in Motel type accommodation with Education, Medical facilities and Test Driving track – It is a live-in Education facility not a Prison – although there will be a High Security area for those not willing to accept the measure.

Sentences would be from 2 days to a maximum of 12 weeks.

Time for something expensive but something which will make a difference, we need to Medically and Practically evaluate these drivers then re-educated, solve the medial problem and then give them practical measures to participate in the driving community.

**We now know what doesn't work:**

Fines, imprisonment, license disqualification, and now vehicle confiscation – you must be joking these people will just go and buy another car, and if you try to track them then they will be unlicensed uninsured, an even worse situation.

You as the travel safe committee are responsible for making our roads safer and am very concerned if you bring in more restrictive measures such as this vehicle confiscation then you are just going to be responsible for having more unlicensed unregistered uninsured drivers on the road. Does this mean I or any member of the public can now sue members of the committee for any injury sustained caused by one of these unlicensed uninsured drivers?

Please find a solution not a punishment – punishment just doesn't work.