



TRAVELSAFE COMMITTEE

NOVICE DRIVER AND RIDER FORUMS

2003

The Travelsafe Committee hosted eleven public forums throughout Queensland as part of their current inquiries: *Reducing the road toll for young Queenslanders – is education enough?*; and *Inquiry into provisional driver and rider licence restrictions*.

The purpose of the forums was to discuss methods of reducing young driver and rider crashes. The focus of the forum was listening to the ideas, opinions, facts and personal stories of participants. Representatives from Queensland Police and Queensland Transport attended each forum.

Ten of the forums were open to the public, while a special forum was held with participants in the YMCA Youth Parliament in Brisbane on 9 July. The locations and dates of the forums were:

- Brisbane (20 May);
- Robina (20 May);
- Caloundra (21 May);
- Gympie (21 May);
- Toowoomba (22 May);
- Cairns (22 June);
- Townsville (22 June);
- Mackay (23 June);
- Rockhampton (24 June);
- YMCA youth parliament forum in Brisbane (9 July); and
- Roma (14 August).

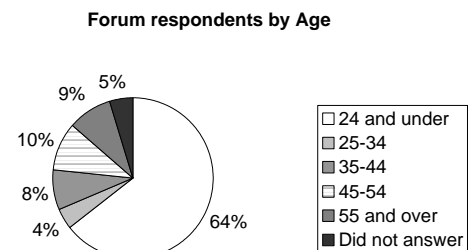
Individuals attending the forums included Members of Parliament, representatives from local governments, school and university students, other young people, parents, teachers, driver and rider trainers, educators, academics, police and other departmental staff.

The YMCA Youth Parliament forum involved eighty young people between 15 and 25 years. They were from electorates across Queensland including 35 electorates in regional and rural areas.

The format of all forums was similar:

- Introduction by the chair Mr Jim Pearce MP (except Roma where Hon Vince Lester MP performed this role);
- Short presentation by Queensland Transport (except Roma where Ms Lyndel Bates, the Senior Research Officer for the Travelsafe Committee did this);
- Discussion of the first inquiry, *Reducing the road toll for young Queenslanders – is education enough?*; and
- Discussion of the second inquiry, *Inquiry into provisional driver and rider licence restrictions*.

At the conclusion of each forum, the committee invited participants to complete a response form to provide further feedback on the issues under consideration. Three hundred and twenty individuals completed response forms. The pie chart opposite shows the age of respondents. The majority were under the age of 25 (209 people, 64 percent). There were 14 (4 percent) people aged between 25 and 34, 26 (8 percent) aged between 35 and 44, 32 (10 percent) aged between 45 and 54, and 29 (9 percent) individuals aged over 55. Fifteen people (5 percent) did not provide their age.



While not intended to be statistically valid, the figures below provide an indication of the views of those who attended the forums.

Statement	Disagree (percent) ¹	Uncertain (percent)	Agree (percent) ²
Advanced driving skills training for provisional licence holders	12	19	69
'Insight' training and education courses for provisional licence holders	10	17	73
Increased supervised driving practice during the learner phase	16	23	60
A two-stage provisional licensing system	30	31	39
Imposing a night curfew from 9.00pm till 6.00am for the first six months of a provisional licence, with exemptions for special cases	70	12	17
A night driving curfew from midnight till 5.00am for the first six months of a provisional licence, with exemptions for special cases	57	14	29
Passenger restrictions for the first six months of a provisional licence, with exemptions for special cases	59	14	28
Limiting the number of peer passengers to one between the hours of midnight and 6.00am for the first six months of a provisional licence, with exemptions for special cases	54	18	28
Passengers and night driving restrictions should only apply to those drivers and riders who have committed serious traffic offences	27	25	48
A power-to-weight restriction for provisionally-licensed car drivers, with exemptions for special cases	35	27	38
A power-to-weight restriction for provisionally-licensed motorbike riders, with exemptions for special cases	29	29	42
Make it illegal to tow any trailer during the first six months of a provisional licence, with exemptions for special cases	36	24	40
Limiting the weight of trailers that may be towed for the first six months of a provisional licence to 250kg (a typical box trailer when empty), with exemptions for special cases	33	28	39
Introducing additional speed restrictions for provisional licence holders	65	16	20
Requiring provisional drivers and riders to remain offence-free for six months before being issued an open licence	24	15	61
Requiring all provisional drivers and riders to display P plates	37	21	42
Introducing an exit test that provisional drivers and riders must pass in order to gain an open licence	21	21	57

TRAVELSAFE COMMITTEE

The Travelsafe Committee of the 50th Parliament is a select committee required to monitor, investigate and report on all aspects of road safety and Public Transport in Queensland.

Committee Members

Mr Jim Pearce MP (Chairman), Member for Fitzroy
Hon Vince Lester MP (Deputy Chairman), Member for Keppel
Ms Rosa Lee Long MP, Member for Tablelands
Ms Carolyn Male MP, Member for Glasshouse
Mrs Dianne Reilly MP, Member for Mudgeraba
Miss Elisa Roberts MP, Member for Gympie
Mrs Christine Scott MP, Member for Charters Towers

Post

Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House QLD 4000

Phone (07) 3406 7908

Fax (07) 3406 7070

E-mail tsafe@parliament.qld.gov.au

Website www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees/

¹ Disagree responses include both strongly disagree and disagree responses to the statement.

² Agree responses include both strongly agree and agree responses to the statement.