

Question on Notice

No. 552

Asked on 19 May 2004

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the relatively high accident rate of young drivers on Queensland roads—
Will he advise what strategies and programs are in place to combat this problem?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question and acknowledge his interest in this most important subject. As the member has pointed out, young drivers in Queensland are over-represented in crashes both as a proportion of the population, and in the amount of time they spend driving. Young people aged between 16 – 20 years constitute approximately seven percent of the Queensland population but account for approximately 14 percent of road fatalities and 20 percent of hospitalisations. As such, young drivers are one of the key priorities in the new *Queensland Road Safety Strategy 2004-2011*.

The Government has recently supported 31 of the 33 recommendations made by the Parliamentary Select Travelsafe Committee, arising from their enquiries into the safety of young drivers and riders.

Two recommendations currently being implemented are developing a trialled reintroduction of L-plates for learner drivers, and research with young drivers to determine the extent and effect of their supervised driving/riding during the learner license period.

These initiatives will support existing Queensland education, training and awareness initiatives to improve the safety record of young drivers. These include:

- **Queensland licensing system:** Queensland has a graduated driver licensing system that is designed to allow novice drivers and riders to gain driving experience under conditions of reduced exposure to risky situations. Restrictions are placed on each stage with these decreasing as the driver passes successfully through each stage.
- **Road safety education – school curriculum:** Queensland Transport works closely with Queensland Education in the preparation of road safety materials for inclusion in the syllabus for all age groups and has recently developed a draft framework for the planning and delivery of road safety education.
- **Queensland Government – School Road Safety Education Strategic Group (SRSESG):** The SRSESG was formed by the Queensland Government in response to community road safety concerns for young people. The two specific terms of reference of the group are to provide advice on Road Safety Education in the school curriculum in Years 1 to 10 and strategies for inclusion of Road Safety Education and Student Driver Education in the senior school (Years 11 and 12).

I am confident that the initiatives mentioned and other ongoing work of my department will have a positive effect on the safety of young drivers and riders.