



NSW Driver Trainers Association **Newsflash February 2017**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

On behalf of the nsw driver trainers association management committee, hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new years. We hope that 2016 was a successful and happy one for you and that you have been able to continue providing quality training to our states novice drivers to help create more safe drivers on our roads. We also hope that you are able to take some well earned time off to spend with family and friends, to recharge those batteries for a big 2017.

Parliamentary Stay Safe committee inquiry into driver training

There is currently a standing inquiry in front of the Stay Safe committee that is looking at road safety and the role that whole of life driver training plays in reducing road trauma. Submissions are open to the public and close on Feb20th 2017. The NSW Driver Trainers Association has been putting together a submission to speak on behalf of the industry, however we would encourage anyone that feels like they want to have their own say, to please look at the information and decide on putting one in yourself.

The media release and terms of reference for the inquiry are at the end of this newsletter.

For more info, follow this link: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2422>

New Roads Minister

Following on from the retirement of NSW Premier Mike Baird, Gladys Berejiklian was announced at the new Premier. The Hon Mrs Berejiklian then conducted a reshuffle of some of the key minters and unfortunately, the Hon Duncan Gay was removed from his position as Minister for Roads and Ports. Since his time in the role, Mr Gay has had a good working relationship with our industry and his presence will be missed, He was instrumental in getting speed limits for learner drivers increased, introducing the Safer Drivers Course, using speed camera revenue for road safety programs etc.

We welcome the Hon Melinda Pavey to the role as Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the department.

Rehab Training for Driving Instructors

Interest in the course is really increasing with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) coming on board and just an increasing number of driver trained OTs. In We have been informed that it is not a requirement to do the course to register as an instructor with the NDIS but of course it would be advisable when working with people with disabilities. The next one is July 10 - 11.

If you are interested, follow the link below, but beware that student numbers are limited and with growing interest you may miss out if you leave it too late.

Course link: <https://cce.sydney.edu.au/course/DRDI>

AGM

On November 23rd we held our AGM at the Bankstown Sports Club. While attendance numbers were down, the quality of the discussions on the day showed the level of passion many share for this industry and there were some great ideas put forward that we will be looking at implementing in the coming year.

As per our policy of standing down half the committee every year, this year we had Garth Bransgrove, Julie Kirby, Anthony Cope and Richard Day stepping down from the management committee. This left 4 positions vacant and 5 nominations were received for these positions. However Julie Kirby declined the nomination for personal reasons so therefore no election was needed as all 4 positions were automatically filled. I would like to welcome Akil Ahmad to the committee and look forward to working with him to continue servicing our membership as best as possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thanks to Julie Kirby for her time working on the committee. Julie came onto the committee with relatively little experience in the industry but with a huge passion to learn more and have a say in how things run. Several years ago, Julie accepted the role of temporary secretary after our previous secretary, Denise Zarboch, left the industry. She did such a great job we convinced her to stay on in that role for several more years. Julie was also the key organiser of our state conferences in 2012 and 2014, which were both successes due mainly to her hard work. Her presence will be sorely missed and we wish the best in the future and thoughts with her over the next few months.

Dash cams

On our last newsletter we mentioned all testing officers were notified of the correct policy regarding dash cams during driving tests, and how they must be turned off. However we have been informed that some testing officers, in an effort to ensure a test is still conducted, have still been interfering with Dash cams to try and make sure they are turned off etc. It has been stated by some testing officers that the previous communication did not specifically say they could not touch them, so they have continued to do so. We have confirmed with Service NSW that testing officers have no right to touch the cameras, and a follow up communication is being sent out.

PCYC training

Any members who contract to the PCYC for the safer driver's course should by now have signed and returned you contracts. This will take these contracts until the end of the current service provider agreement the PCYC has to deliver the safer drivers course.

New service provider agreements will be being sought by mid next year following the same process as previous years, so if there is anyone out there thinking they may want to become a provider, now would be the time to start getting organised for what you would include in your Request For Quotation.

The PCYC have said they will again be applying to be a service provider and assuming they are successful, new coach and facilitator contracts will be arranged at that time. The nsw driver trainers association will be renegotiating those contracts for our members, so if there is anything that you haven't been happy with in your current contract or feel should be included in the next ones, please let us know so we can look at trying to get that rectified for next time.

You would have also been notified of some compulsory training taking place during February and March of this year. This training is being delivered to ensure the PCYC meets its obligations to provide professional development for its contractors and has come about as a result of the audits that were conducted earlier this year. The purpose of the training is to close any gaps in course delivery that became apparent and to ensure all coaches and facilitators are delivering the course as per the provider agreement.

The PCYC will be looking after the facilitator training section whilst the nsw driver trainers association will be conducting the coach training session. Attendance is compulsory for all PCYC contracted coaches and facilitators and you must book in with Jenny Davidson for the session that suits you best, as per the email you received. **DO NOT CONTACT US TO BOOK IN FOR THE TRAINING. FAILURE TO ATTEND A TRAINING SESSION WILL PUT YOU IN BREACH OF YOUR CONTRACT WHICH REQUIRES YOU TO ATTEND ANY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE PCYC.**

Dates and locations for training are:

- Wednesday, 15 February 2017 – PCYC Coffs Harbour
- Thursday, 16 February 2017 – PCYC Lismore
- Tuesday, 21 February 2017 – PCYC Newcastle
- Tuesday, 28 February 2017 – PCYC Eastern Suburbs (Daceyville)
- Wednesday, 1 March 2017 – PCYC State Office (Whalan)
- Thursday, 2 March 2017 – PCYC Sutherland
- Tuesday, 7 March 2017 – PCYC Wagga Wagga
- Wednesday, 8 March 2017 – PCYC Orange

Workshop times are:

- Coaches – 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Facilitators – 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Lunch will be provided from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and Facilitators and Coaches are welcome to join PCYC Coordinators for a bite to eat either before or after their workshop session.

Attendance at a Professional Development Workshop is mandatory for all current Facilitators and Coaches. Bookings are essential and must be made via email to jdavidson@pcycnsw.org.au. When booking please indicate your preferred location, the names of people and which session(s) they are attending.

Test waiting times.

Prior to Xmas we met with Service NSW do update on where things are up to in the network and look at test waiting times etc. At the time, test waiting times remained fairly low across the network, with only a couple of exceptions getting into the double figure waiting times. We do know that waiting times increased over the Xmas period as some test centres scaled back the number of tests due to traffic concerns on test routes etc.

There are various reasons for some centres still having relatively high waiting times, and one that is apparent at Rockdale, is driving instructors making test bookings for any clients on their database to ensure there is a test spot reserved for when they need it. When they then have a client who legit ally needs a test, they change the booking they

have reserved to a later date, which opens up a free spot for them to book their real test into. Whilst there is nothing illegal or anything about this practice, it is frowned upon as it is blocking out people who genuinely want to or need to make a test booking at that service centre. We would encourage anyone engaged in this practice to stop doing so and book into the system the same as everyone else, ensuring a fair go for all.

There also still seems to be an idea that people need to go to their local service centre, or that there are ones that are easier to pass at than others. This is adding to an increase waiting time at some centres over others. There is no evidence currently that suggests one test centre is an easier pass than others, and in fact all test centres undergo a periodic review after a certain period of time and tests conducted. If there are any major discrepancies between one test centre and another or one tester and another, it is actioned by service nsw to ensure a level playing field.

CADROSA

At last year's Road Safety Conference, we were approached by road safety researcher, Dr Bridie Scott Parker, with an invitation to join her new initiative, CADROSA. CADROSA stands for Consortium of Adolescent Road Safety, and is an initiative to try and bring together like mind individuals and stakeholders in an effort to make a real difference in young driver safety. While there may often be lots of things happening in this field, sharing of information and ideas is often difficult, so CADROSA was formed to try and make this easier.

Knowing that many of our members are very interested in research and other road safety projects, you may be interested in checking out the website and getting involved. Go to:

<http://cadrosa.org/>

Membership renewals

Over the Xmas period, you would have all received your membership renewals for 2017. It is great to see how many people took advantage of the early bird renewal rate and got things done ASAP. For those new members, we welcome you to the association and invite you to contact us anytime you need help or have an enquiry.

For anything to do with membership (note the s on the end of members), email members@nswdrivertrainers.com.au

For any other general enquiries, email enquiries@nswdrivertrainers.com.au

Being too secure

The personal loss of a family member over the Xmas period highlighted an issue we may all have when it comes to digital security, and it is something you may need to think about. In today's day and age we have passwords for just about everything we do and use, however have you thought about whom else in your family knows these passwords?

When my brother in law fell into a coma days before Christmas, it became apparent very early that neither his wife or son knew the pass code to get into his phone that was locked with fingerprint scanning (not possible to access in this medical state), or the passwords to the home computers, email address, iTunes, his business invoicing system etc. Nothing. They knew how to access nothing. While not letting others know your log in details for things sounds like a good idea at first, it can cause a world of trouble if something happens to you.

Lucky for us, a family friend is a computer whiz and was able to hack into the laptops where we found the holy grail. My relative had created a document that listed all of the usernames and passwords for everything that needed to be

accessed, except for the phone, and with that we were eventually able to get into whatever was needed, and by a long process, eventually break into his phone. He had only made this list on the advice of the friend who cracked his computer, and we will forever be thankful that he did. Important documents etc could all now be retrieved, but almost more importantly the family photos we thought would be lost are now theirs forever.

Because of this, I would like to personally encourage you all to make a list. Make a list of everything your loved ones will need to access everything you can yourself. Save it on your computer, but also print it out and keep it somewhere safe, and tell them where it is. Update it when things change, and again keep the new copy printed out somewhere. You may think this would never be needed, but life is unpredictable and you never know if tomorrow your family could be trying to find those precious memories of you.

Organ Donation

As a follow up to this tragedy, I would also like to bring to your attention something you may not have thought much about before. Organ donation is a wonderful thing, but also very personal. It's not for everybody, and for some it may be a cultural or religious issue. For those that don't have those issues, I again would personally encourage you all to think about it and talk it over with your families. From our experience we can say that there is great solace knowing that your loss has helped other. While my relative is no longer with us, we have peace knowing that he helped save the lives of 3 other people, and what better phone call for them to get on Xmas day than to say they will be getting the ultimate gift.

For more info, visit:

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/>





MEDIA RELEASE

16 November 2016

INQUIRY WILL EXAMINE WHOLE-OF-LIFE DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A new parliamentary inquiry will examine the role of whole-of-life driver education and training in supporting improved road safety outcomes, Albury MP Greg Aplin, Chair of the Parliament's Staysafe Committee, announced today.

"New South Wales has been a standout road safety performer for many years, but the recent spike in road fatalities is concerning," Mr Aplin said. "We are also concerned that certain age groups, and especially some experienced drivers, are over-represented in the statistics."

The inquiry's terms of reference are broad, giving the public an opportunity to have their say on driver education and training as they relate to all drivers throughout their driving lives.

"Driver education and training are often seen as only relevant to the young," Mr Aplin said. "We think it is time to examine the role of education and training for people of all ages, wherever they live, and however they use their vehicles."

The inquiry's terms of reference include examining the effectiveness of refresher training, and educating drivers about changing vehicle technology.

"Our recent inquiry into motorcycle safety identified the value of encouraging experienced and returning riders to update their skills," Mr Aplin said. "For many of us the only training we receive is in our teenage years, yet changes to driving conditions and vehicle technology during our driving lives can make much of this early training obsolete."

The inquiry will also examine the needs of rural and regional drivers, drivers with health-related conditions, and other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers, including children and young people.

"We will also be looking at the needs of driver trainers," Mr Aplin said. "Trainers include both professionals who work for driving schools or are self-employed, and parents and friends who train people in their own time with limited support."

The Staysafe Committee does not have a preconceived view on how education and training can be better targeted or delivered.

"We have an open mind about whether more training should be mandatory," Mr Aplin said. "We are keen to find out whether education and training are accessible, timely, and targeted at the right people. We want to know what things we can do more effectively to improve skills, change attitudes, and deliver better road safety outcomes."

Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday 20 February 2017.

More information is available on the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe.

MEDIA CONTACT: Mr Greg Aplin MP, Chair of the Staysafe Committee (02) 6021 3042



Inquiry into Driver Education, Training and Road Safety

Terms of Reference

The Committee will inquire into, and report on, the role of whole-of-life driver education and training in supporting improved road safety outcomes in New South Wales, with particular reference to:

- a) Trends in road safety research and crash statistics
- b) Evaluating current driver training, including the effectiveness of refresher training and skills updating, and adaptation to changing vehicle technology
- c) The needs of any particular driver groups
- d) The needs of driver trainers, both professional and non-professional
- e) The needs of metropolitan, rural and regional drivers
- f) The needs and expectations of passengers and other road users
- g) The cost of driver training standards and how the costs should be allocated
- h) The experience of other jurisdictions, and interstate cross-border issues
- i) Other related matters.