

MOTORING MATTERS *Factsheet*

Driver Education – keys2drive



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Current Situation

- ▶ Road trauma is the leading cause of death among young Australians. Young people aged 16 to 25 accounted for nearly one third of Australia's road deaths, despite representing less than 15% of the population.
- ▶ As drivers, 17 to 20 year olds are three times more likely to be involved in a serious crash than drivers aged 21 years, and over 11 times more likely to be killed than drivers aged 40 to 44 years.
- ▶ Getting a driver's licence is an exciting time for most young Australians. The freedom to drive gives them independence, opening up new opportunities for work, study and socialising.
- ▶ More can be done to help significantly reduce the crash risk of young people, without negating their ability to travel.

What AAA Wants

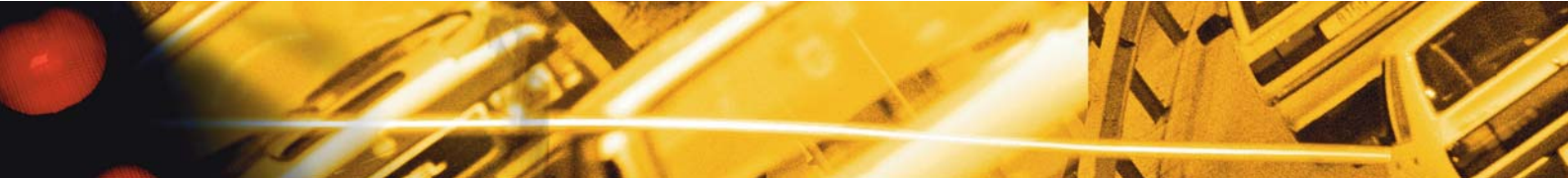
- ▶ To partner with Government and the driver training industry to help Learner drivers get more real-world, on-road supervised driving experience before they go solo, and give supervising drivers, who are often the Learner's parents, a change to brush up on their own skills.

AAA is developing a program, named *keys2drive*, which would take three parts:

- One Commonwealth funded professional driving lesson by a qualified driving instructor for Learner drivers when they bring their supervisor. This component is modeled on RACV's existing Parent Plus program.
 - Establishment of a voluntary accreditation scheme for professional driving instructors, which goes beyond that required by the normal statutory licensing process to encourage best practice within the industry, and seeks to actively promote those driver instructors who are accredited. This is modeled on RACWA's existing *keys2drive* pilot program.
 - Creation of a single national interactive website providing a definitive resource for Learners, supervisors and the driver trainer industry.
- ▶ Depending on the level of uptake of the program and cost of the driving lessons, the program could cost be between \$21,995,000 and \$37,995,000 over five years.

Constituent
Member





Why We Want It

- ▶ If there is one sure thing in driver training and education, it's that high levels of supervised practice, involving a variety of driving circumstances before making the transition to driving solo, results in fewer deaths.
- ▶ Experience in Sweden, which has one of the best road safety records in the world, showed that increasing supervised, on-road experience to about 120 hours reduced crashes in the two years following licensing by about 40%, compared to those drivers who only got 45 hours experience.
- ▶ Most States and Territories have now introduced a requirement that Learners obtain a minimum number of hours of on-road driving experience. These supervised hours range from 50 hours to 120 hours.
- ▶ However, many supervisors, who are often parents, brothers, sisters or friends, find teaching their Learner a daunting and stressful task. Many supervisors also underestimate the risk that young drivers face. As a result, research shows that Learner drivers are not getting an optimal number of hours on the road and are not being exposed to sufficient variety of road types and conditions.
- ▶ *Keys2drive* is designed to overcome that barrier by building the confidence and skills of supervising drivers. It would provide comprehensive advice on how to assess whether their Learner has developed sufficient skills in lower risk level driving environments before progressing to higher risk environments — like driving on busier roads, at night and in the rain.

¹ ATSB, 2004. "Road Safety in Australia: A Publication Commemorating World Health Day 2004."

