

From: [REDACTED]
To: [RST](#)
Subject: Submission into Road Safety
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Good Evening Mr Mills

My Name is Adrian Gill and I am a Station Officer with the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS). I have been with the TFS for over 20 years and like most emergency service workers I have seen my exposure to road deaths. I have a daughter who is 18 and has been driver for about 12 months on her "P's". My son has just turned 16 and he is now learning to drive.

I am making contact with you regarding the motion to the Legislative Council to establish a Committee to try and reduce the number of road deaths and serious injuries on Tasmanian roads.

My idea in reducing the road toll, is to make new drivers aware of the dangers when they get their licence. How we can do this is to introduce a driver awareness program into all grade 11, 12 and trade schools around the state.

I read a recent article by RACT CEO Mark Mugnaioni, and heard Rosemary Armitage MLC talk on the radio and the common theme is that not a lot has changed or improved in the past 10 years.

Mr Mugnaioni mentioned black spots, condition of the road, road surface, speed, alcohol, drugs are distractions and contributors to Tasmanian road deaths and serious injuries.

Tasmania has introduced a new strategy for new drivers including the number of passengers "P" platers can have in the car. This is a good start. This removes the extra peer pressure passengers out of the car. But there still is, all of the other contributors to crashes phones, drugs, alcohol etc. Road surface type, condition of the road, speed will effect how a young driver handles the car when they find them selves in a situation.

My thoughts on changing road deaths and serious injuries in Tasmania is to change the attitude of the drivers behind the wheel when they get their licence. All those factors mentioned above are all contributors in causing roads death and serious injuries. Most crashes occur by drivers in the age bracket of 17-25. If we can educate our young drivers of what causes these crashes then hopefully the states statistics may change for the future.

How can we do this?

The program would be presented to all grade 11 & 12 schools around the state in educating young drivers about the dangers of what a car can do?

What if we educate the young drivers that the driver is responsible for the car, their passengers and other road users.

The plan would be to deliver a 1- 1 1/2 hour road safety program to all 17 and 18 year old's during their time at college. The program can be presented to all trade students (at Trade school) who leave grade 10 and get a trade. This would mean all grade 11 and 12 students would receive the program twice while at college.

As I have my children on the road and I don't want one of them or one of their friends

become a statistic.

If we want to start making a change with our road toll then we need to change the attitude of the young drivers getting their licences.

If we change the attitudes when young drivers get their licence, maybe the road toll and serious injuries in 10 years time could be halved. That could be a goal for the major road safety stake holders for the state.

Currently Queensland Fire and Rescue Services (QFES) and South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) have successful road safety awareness programs up and running and being presented by Fire Service personal in their state..

I understand this is not going to be easy and will take time to roll out but I believe this could work. The program could sensitive to a number of people effected by the presentation and the right network supports needs to be set up to support each other. If the program saves 1 teenage life or reduces the road toll by 10 in ten years then we have achieved our goal.

It would be great, if we could get representatives from Tasmanian Police, Tasmanian Ambulance Service and TFS presenters to help present their experiences. In addition to this have people who have been effected by an accident. If there are people willing to speak about how the accident effected them. It could be a parent, driver, passenger, child.

Thanks for your time, if you have any suggestions around the presentation I would love to get together for chat and we can discuss the idea further.

Regards

Adrian Gill

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