

**Our ref:** Full Gear Program  
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Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC  
Chair  
Legislative Council Select Committee  
into Road Safety in Tasmania  
[rst@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:rst@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Hon Armitage

**Legislative Council Select Committee into Road Safety in Tasmania**

Glenorchy City Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission, regarding the benefits of its Full Gear motorcycle safety program, to the Legislative Council Select Committee into Road Safety in Tasmania.

In consultation with the young people in the Chigwell community, it was determined that young people were not getting a licence due to the cost. However, this was not the only reason why young people were engaging in unsafe riding behaviours.

Young people wanted:

- Someone to pay for the learner course fees (\$700)
- Provision of a helmet and a pair of gloves
- Professional Instruction (but not in a classroom style)
- Personal and individual support
- No police involvement
- A free lunch

The Full Gear project aims to address the issue of unsafe and illegal motorcycle riding and promote positive road safety messaging in the community. It is a co-designed program between young people who have offended or are at risk of riding unsafely, Bucaan Community House and Glenorchy City Council.

The program (delivered over eight-weeks) is a mutual exchange of experience and knowledge to combat the root cause of the issue, using young people as experts to make positive change. In exchange for their commitment, the young people participate in marketing campaigns to promote road safety and the subsequent Full Gear course.

Social issues are also addressed informally during the sessions, for example, attitudes (such as “going for a razz to blow off steam”), school, transport, buses, drugs/alcohol and employment.

The Full Gear Project course facilitator has 12 years’ experience as a motorcycle instructor and is also a qualified social worker. The Full Gear project coordinator is an Australian Counselling Association recognised Counsellor and also a community development worker with Council. There has been significant support given by the workers to the Full Gear program, where they are held at the community houses in Chigwell, New Norfolk and in the near future, Gagebrook.

There has also been significant support to the Full Gear program from other organisations, including Mission Australia, Legal Aid and Neighbourhood Watch. Of note, Legal Aid delivers a free session on insurance, accidents and drink driving.

Positive outcomes indicating the success of this program include; completion rates, increase of young people who obtained licences through the program, improvement of attitudes to road safety and increase in employment.

Verbal feedback from the participants also demonstrates that they now have improved self-confidence and sense of importance as change makers in the community. We believe these personal achievements manifest themselves into positive behaviours on the road, therefore creating a safer community.

Since the first two State Growth funded programs began in May 2017:

- 50 young people have obtained their learner motorbike licence
- Participants have reported an increase in their casual hours as a result being able to get to work earlier
- 90% of participants say they have improved their attitudes to road safety by 100% as a result of Full Gear
- 11 participants have become employed as a direct result of obtaining their licence
- Participants have reported that their compliance with road rules has improved along with their self-confidence and civic participation.

The success of the program has enabled Glenorchy City Council to receive additional funding for the next five-years with the proviso to trial this model in other Local Government Areas. The first of these trial programs was successfully finished recently with 10 young people in New Norfolk obtaining their learner’s licence. The Full Gear motorcycle program will continue in Gagebrook in September/October this year before returning to Glenorchy in 2022.

The program fulfills a number of the priority areas in the *Towards Zero - Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026* including Encouraging Safer Road Use, Improving Safety in our Cities and Towns and Saving Young Lives, and complements infrastructure improvements to our Tasmanian roads.

An additional 12 months' funding is being sought for a P's (provisional) program to increase the effectiveness of the Full Gear Program.

Council's Full Gear project officer would be happy to provide any further information in relation to the success of this program if required.

Yours sincerely,



**Tony McMullen**  
**General Manager**

