

COMMUNITY ROAD SAFETY

YOUNG ROAD USER SAFETY GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

The safety and well-being of young road users is a major concern for many communities. Young people, especially in their first year of driving, are extremely vulnerable as road users. Community road safety organisations can develop and support effective programs and are encouraged to follow this good practice guide.

What is the best approach?

In order to be effective, research shows that community road safety groups should ensure that road safety programs and campaigns are delivered in the following ways:

- ✓ multi-action and integrated programs are delivered over time
- ✓ only evidence-based programs are implemented and supported
- ✓ programs that aim to enhance and encourage a safer culture in the local community
- ✓ programs that engage with young people, their parents and other important community partners are adopted

What content should be covered?

Many aspects of young road user safety can be incorporated into effective community programs. There is research evidence to suggest that community programs should inform and support:

- ✓ the Graduated Licensing System (GLS) by focusing on learners undertaking 120 hours of driving practice and helping novice drivers develop strategies to comply with the peer passenger and alcohol restrictions.
- ✓ the importance of vehicle safety for new drivers
- ✓ parents to be good road safety role models and programs to help parents develop strategies to reduce the risks their children face as road users
- ✓ drink driving prevention through a range of mechanisms to reduce access to alcohol among young people and discourage unsafe driving and driving practices in the community

Although high risk young people and young offenders are a concern to community road safety groups, these young people need specialist programs that are delivered by trained professionals, rather than community road safety groups.

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What good practice community programs might look like....

Road safety groups should implement multi-action, evidence based programs that either address novice driver safety more generally, or focus on drink driving in their community. These programs should involve other community partners such as Victoria Police and other agencies supporting youth.

Assisting Novice Drivers

- ✓ encourage local schools to adopt an effective road safety education approach – support the use of Traffic Safety Essentials Resource as a core approach to young driver safety in years 10-12, as well as enhancement programs Keys Please and Fit to Drive
- ✓ help disseminate information and materials about how parents can assist their learners. Promote *Lessons from the Road*, and the TAC parent information sheets and disseminate these resources through local community organisations such as sporting clubs, church groups, youth workers etc.
- ✓ promote the use of the First Car Guide and other vehicle safety resources to encourage safe vehicle choice among young drivers and their parents
- ✓ promote the use of the VicRoads mobile phone app 'Road Mode' to ensure that P drivers in particular do not breach the restriction on using mobile phones
- ✓ support local L2P programs by encouraging a greater number of volunteers into this program

Reducing drink driving

- ✓ encourage all sporting clubs, especially those with young members, to adopt the Good Sports program and assist those clubs already running it to continue and enhance what they are already doing. Providing a '*Looking After Our Mates*' session can help clubs reinforce the key messages of the Good Sports Program
- ✓ discourage underage drinking by working with community partners at local licensed venues and supporting the enforcement of Liquor Licensing Laws
- ✓ support the use and installation of coin operated breath testing devices in licensed venues and community events to create community awareness and understanding of BAC limits
- ✓ promote the new secondary supply of alcohol laws using the website developed by VicHealth and promote the Teen Drinking Law mobile phone app for teenagers
- ✓ encourage schools and community groups to hold a '*Looking After Our Mates*' session for young drivers and passengers to raise awareness of alcohol and other drug related trauma and young people
- ✓ work with relevant community agencies to provide some forms of alternative transport to and from venues or events that may be associated with high levels of alcohol consumption
- ✓ encourage and support the promotion of local police enforcement of drink driving laws and promote this enforcement across the local community

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Where to find resources?

- > Road Safety Education Resources:
www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/resources
- > VicRoads Website – Lessons from the Road, Road Mode App: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home
- > Good Sports Program – www.goodsports.com.au
- > VicHealth – for Teen Drinking Law information:
www.teendrinkinglaw.vic.gov.au

High risk young people and young offenders need specialist programs that are delivered by trained professionals, rather than community road safety groups.

What approaches and programs community groups should avoid?

There is research evidence to suggest that some approaches are **not** likely to be effective for young road users and community groups should avoid programs and initiatives that:

- × Involve off-road driver training and especially **avoid** any driving skill based programs.
- × One day or one off events, forums and expos.
- × Rely on fear appeals or involve trauma ward visits, or testimonials from crash victims or offenders.
- × Rely on driver simulation or utilise beer or fatal vision goggles.
- × Encourage participation or membership of racing car clubs or go-karting.
- × Are purely knowledge based and rely on providing information or facts to create behaviour change.