

Queensland's Older Driver Safety Review

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Overview

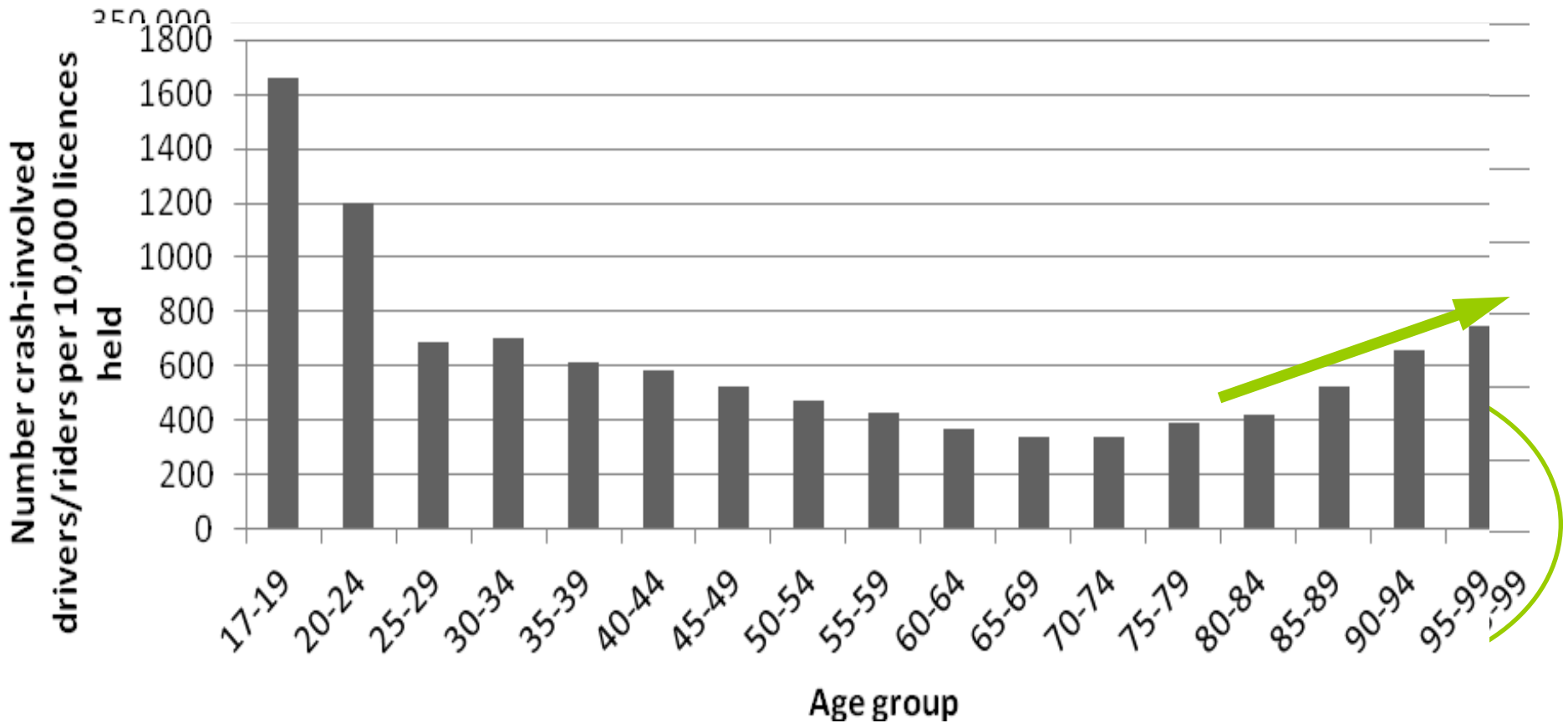
- **Background**
- **Vision**
- **Actions**
- **Results**
- **Next steps**



Background

- **Population trends for older Australians aged 75 years and over:**
 - 6.2% of population in 2007
 - Projected to increase to 11.4% in 2031 (Source: ABS, 2008)
- **Numbers and proportion of older drivers and pedestrians likely to increase**
 - Need to focus on reducing risk of crash involvement of older adults will also increase
- **Older driver crashes in Queensland**
 - Older driver crash risk begins to increase from age group 75-79 (Source: CARRS-Q, 2011)
 - Actual numbers of crash-involved older drivers are relatively small (Source: CARRS-Q, 2011)

Crash data figures



Vision

To identify evidence-based options designed to assist older people to continue to use the road network safely for as long as possible



Actions

1. Review recent older driver research and statistics
2. Develop evidence-based options designed to improve older driver safety
3. Consult with experts in older driver safety, road safety generally, and representatives of organisations advocating for older people
4. Community consultation
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation and monitoring

1. Review of research and statistics

- **Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q) provided:**
 - Detailed literature review
 - Comparison of Queensland policy to approaches in other jurisdictions
 - Review of Queensland crash statistics for five year period 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2009

2. Develop evidence-based options

- **CARRS-Q provided:**
 - Potential initiatives for improving older driver safety in Queensland
 - Grouped by Safe System pillars



3. Consult with experts

- **The Older Driver Safety Advisory Committee**
 - Convened in July 2011 to review CARRS-Q report and provide recommendations to Government
 - Committee members attended an all-day workshop to discuss the report, potential initiatives, and recommendations they wished to make to Government

Committee's approach to task

- Concerned about discrimination on the basis of age – recommendations should be based on risk
- Reluctant to recommend changes to existing policy without compelling evidence
- Concerned about impost on sub-groups of older people
- Focus on assistance with transition from driving to other forms of transport

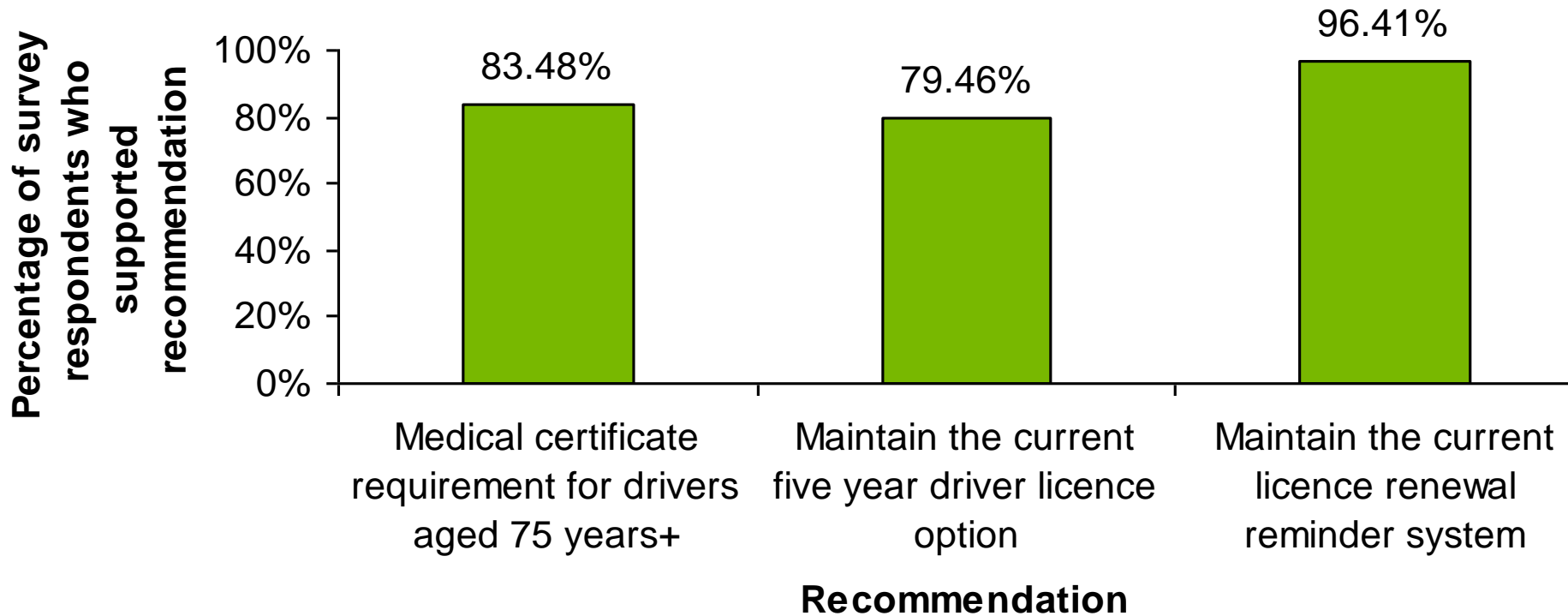
Recommendations

- **Safer road users**
 - Age at which older driver requirements are imposed
 - Frequency of driver licence renewal
 - Vision testing at licence renewal
 - Medical professionals who can report to TMR
 - Restricted licences
 - On-road retesting
 - Family involvement
- **Safer roads and roadsides**
- **Safer speeds**
- **Safer vehicles**

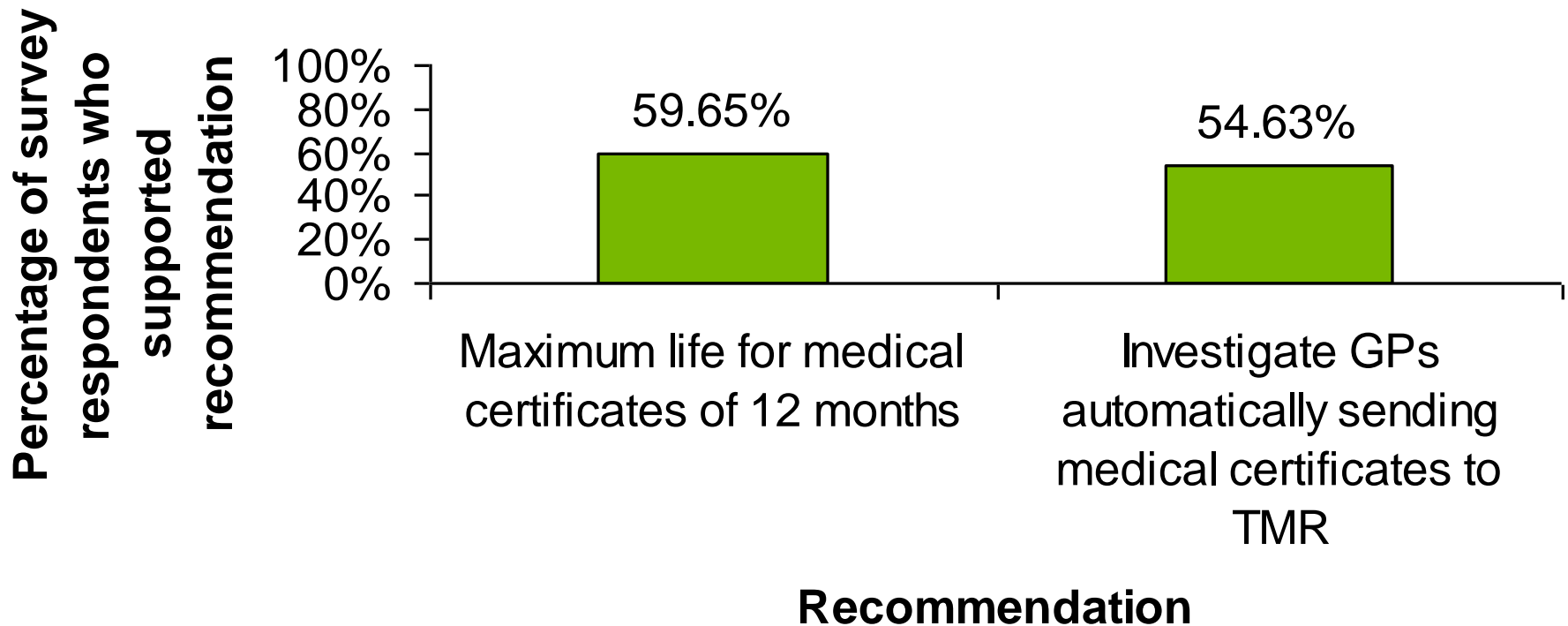
4. Community consultation

- CARRS-Q's research report and the Committee's report describing the rationale for their recommendations were released for a one-month consultation period
- Respondents indicated support / non support, and had the opportunity to provide free text comments
- 234 survey responses were received
- 69 pieces of correspondence and 21 submissions were also received

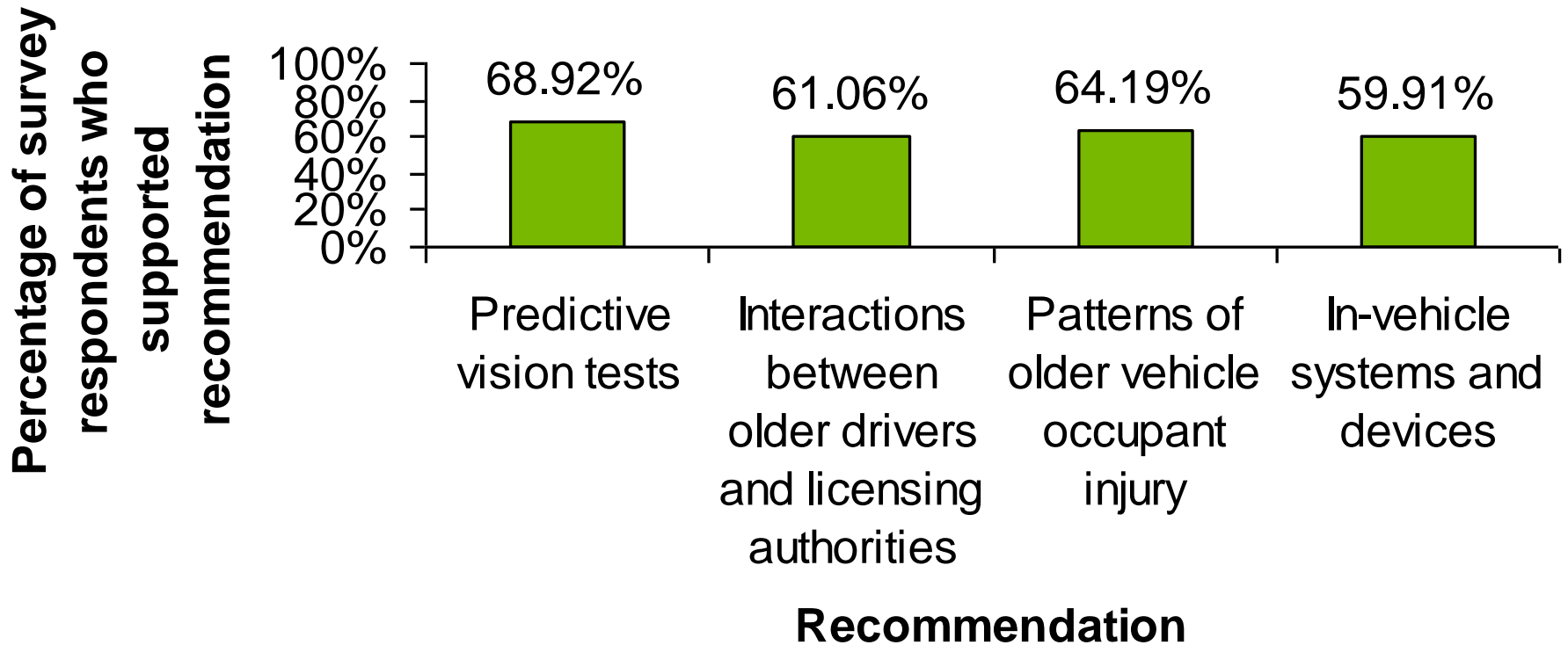
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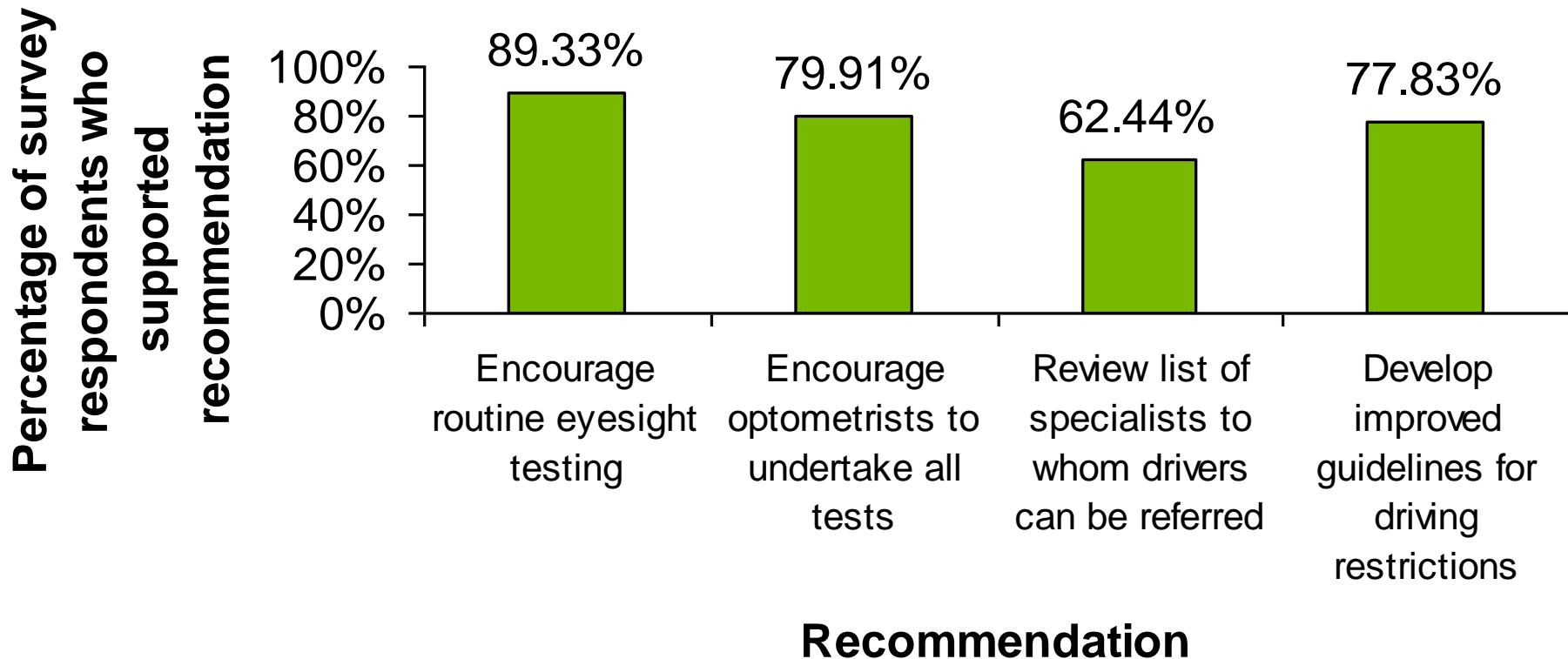
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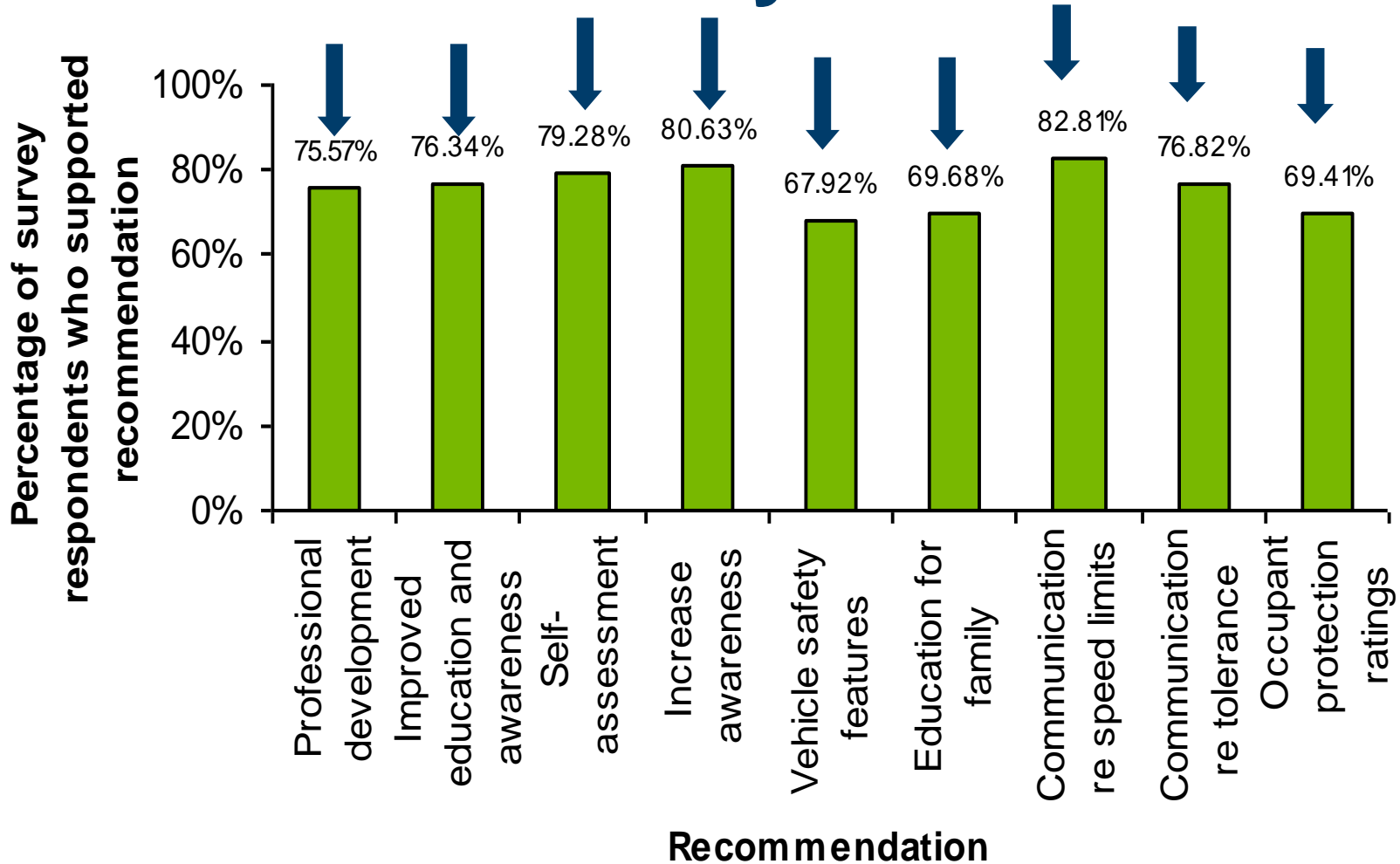
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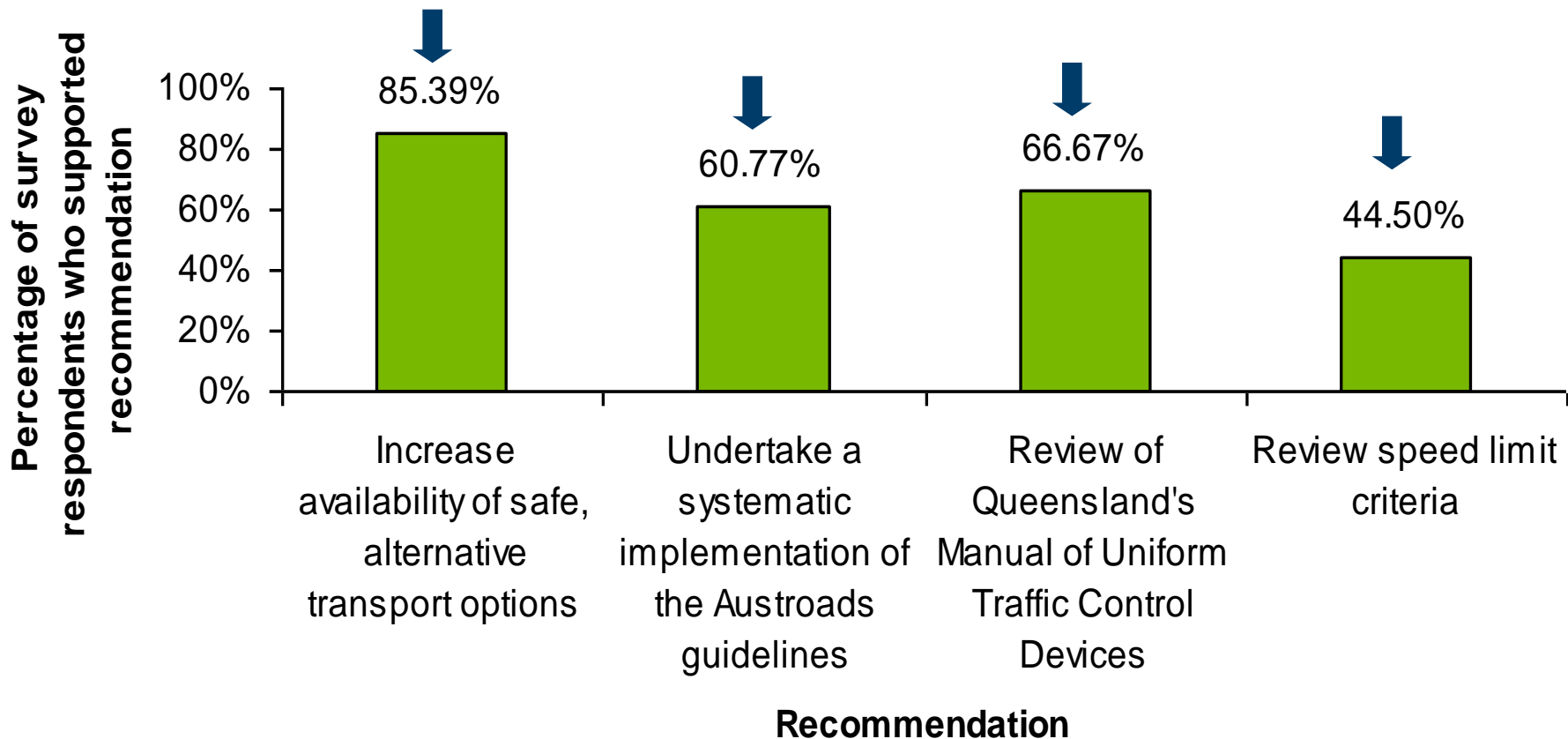
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Reasons for lack of support

- Age rather than risk-based requirements are discriminatory
- Concerns regarding additional costs for older drivers / taxpayers generally
- Concerns about access issues, particularly for older drivers in rural and remote areas
- Did not see a reason to change a system perceived to be working well

Next steps

- The results of the work of the Older Driver Safety Advisory Committee and associated community consultation process were provided to Government
- Queensland is in the process of implementing a package of licensing reforms, including older driver licensing requirements
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Thank you

Questions?

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