

Developing a Safer Drivers Course for Young Learner Drivers

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Background

- In April 2012, the NSW Government established a Board of Independent Road Safety Experts to develop a Safer Drivers Course (the Course) for young learner drivers.
- The Board's Terms of Reference were to:
 - make recommendations on curriculum framework and delivery options for the Course
 - investigate options to assist learner drivers in lower socio-economic, remote and Aboriginal communities to meet the learner supervised driving hour requirements
 - make recommendations regarding the impact of the Course on the existing '3-for-1' policy

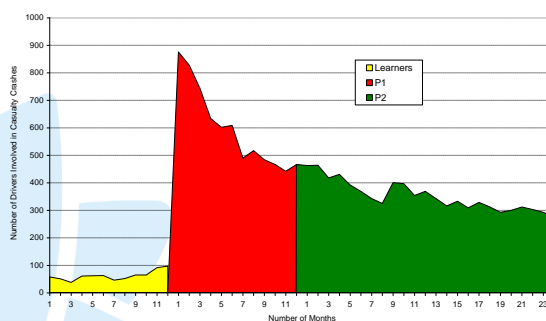
The Board

- The board included representatives from:
 - NSW Centre for Road Safety
 - Roads and Maritime Services
 - NSW Police Force
 - Road safety researchers
 - Education specialists
- The Board was assisted by an Advisory Panel of community and industry members with an interest in driver training and a Secretariat from Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

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Crash Risk

- In NSW young drivers (aged 17-25 years) are more likely to be involved in crashes resulting in death or injury than other drivers.
- Young drivers are most likely to be involved in a crash in the first few months of driving on a provisional P1 licence.



Crash Involvement, NSW 2007 – 2011 (Driver licence class, month of tenure)
(Source: NSW Centre for Road Safety, 2013)

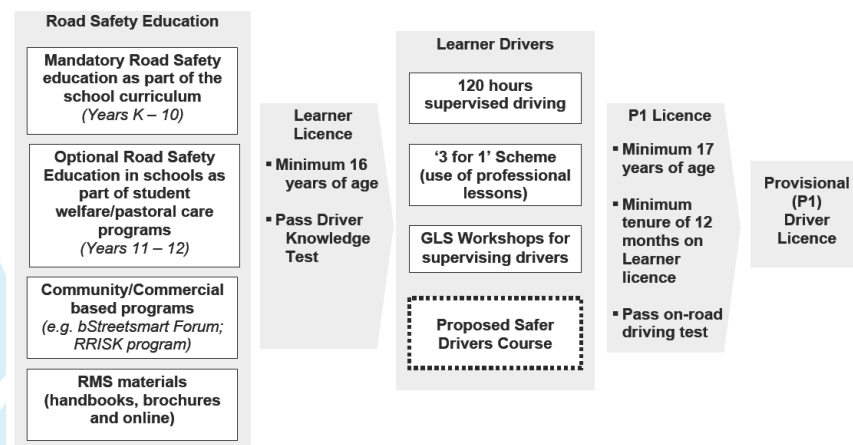
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Key Crash Factors

- NSW crash data for fatal crashes involving a young driver shows that from 2007 – 2011:
 - Speeding (43% of fatal crashes)
 - Illegal alcohol (22% of fatal crashes)
 - Fatigue (12% of fatal crashes)
- Key reasons for young driver crashes relate to:
 - Driver inexperience
 - Poor decision making
 - Poor hazard perception
 - Inflated belief in their own ability

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NSW Graduated Licensing System Young Drivers



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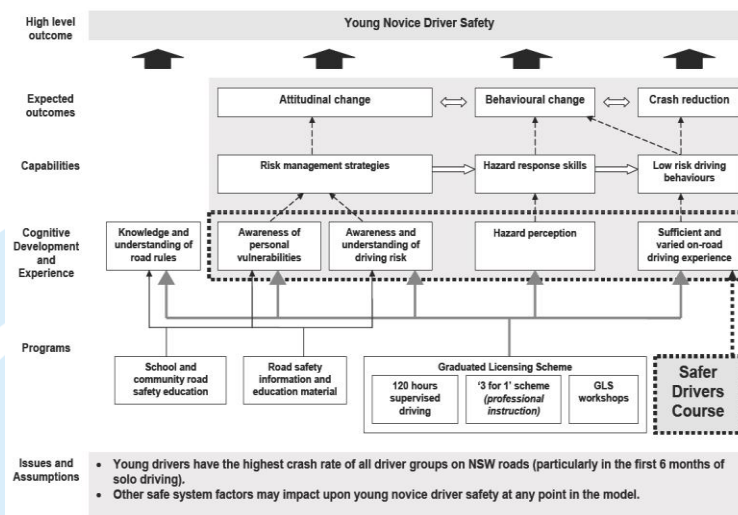
Research Evidence

Evidence considered by the Board:

- Extended on-road supervised driving experience for learner drivers is very important for them to be safe drivers
- Course structure should address higher order skills such as hazard perception and risk taking
- Course design should complement on-road practice and target cognitive and behavioural elements
- Course should be delivered based on adolescent learning principles including a focus on attitudinal and behavioural change

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Program Logic Model



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Course Objectives

To assist young learners to:

- improve their capabilities to drive safely by reducing and managing their road safety risks, hazard response skills, and low risk driving behaviours
- acquire additional safe driving skills, knowledge and insights into their driving vulnerabilities, to complement their on-road driving experience within the context of the log book driving requirement.

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Course Outcomes

The Course is designed to:

- assist learner drivers understand the heightened risk once they drive independently
- acquaint learner drivers with typical crash scenarios and to make links with common young driver behaviour
- provide learner drivers with specific safe driving strategies
- highlight that their safety and vulnerability as independent drivers is in their hands and dependant on their choices, decisions attitudes and risk taking actions
- assist learner drivers to become more resilient to pressures which heighten their risk of negative road safety outcomes

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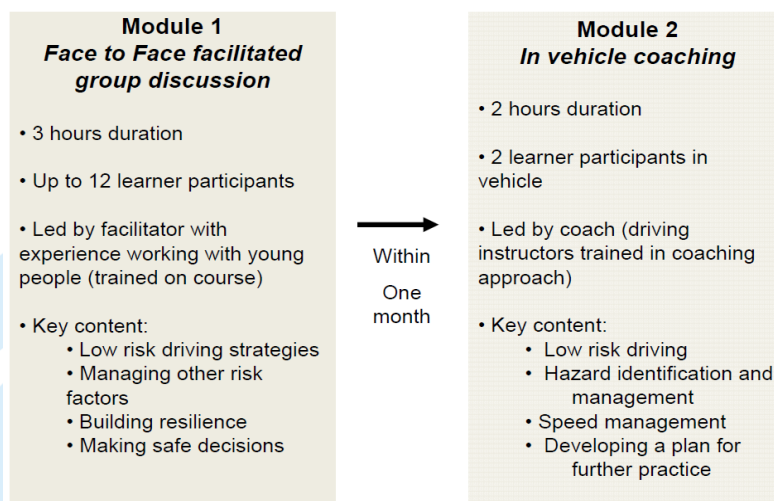
Course Design and Eligibility

The Course is designed for:

- Learner drivers aged 16 – 24 years old
- With a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving experience
- Use facilitated discussions, coaching and driver self-assessment approaches
- Completion of the course provides a reduction of 20 hours from the 120 hour supervised driving requirement
- Further 20 hour reduction available through '3 for 1' professional driving instruction (a total of 40 hours reduction if do both)

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Course Structure



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Course Delivery

- Provider accreditation by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) via an open tender process
- Course needs to be engaging for young people, to be delivered by qualified facilitators and coaches
- The Course is available to learners at an affordable fee of \$140
- Additional cost is met by the NSW Government through the Community Road Safety Fund

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Communication & Information

Key items include:

- A range of media coverage in both regional and local newspapers
- RMS 'Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers' workshops will promote to parents
- Presentation to over 18,000 senior high school students attending Bstreetsmart Event
- Posters and promotional resources for motor registries
- Award-winning promotional video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jazLjDiz5Is&iist=TL0n1_HuhbboV1OQ-_WZsDw2TAY6r-Ygta



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Monitoring & Evaluation

- Regular monitoring of Course delivery and participant feedback to identify
 - intended and unintended impacts
- Formal evaluation will be conducted in 3 to 5 years
- The Course will be assessed on its effectiveness in building:
 - Awareness of personal vulnerabilities
 - Understanding of driving risks
 - Low risk driving strategies including hazard perception and speed management

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Implementation

- Safer Drivers Courses available in NSW since July 2013
- As of 30 September 2013:
 - 1814 learner drivers have completed the Course
 - 14 service providers are accredited to deliver the Course
 - 116 facilitators and 214 coaches have been trained
- For the first six months, the Course is available in 49 locations across NSW
- From January 2014 the Course will be rolled out across a greater geographical area of NSW with more providers
- Initial feedback from participants, parents and providers has been positive

For further information visit <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/geared/>

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