myLearners – Supporting Victorian Learner and Supervising drivers through a staged approach

Juliet Bartels[a], Sarah Chapman[b], Tim Davern[a]

[a]VicRoads [b]Transport Accident Commission

Abstract

VicRoads and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) developed myLearners, an electronic logbook mobile application and an educational website to support learner and supervising drivers through the learning to drive journey. myLearners can capture data on learner driver trips, send targeted road safety messages and track engagement in the road safety messages and feedback by the learner and supervising driver.

This extended abstract will provide an overview of the myLearners product.

Background

myLearners was developed by VicRoads and TAC and includes an electronic logbook mobile application and integrated educational website featuring road safety-based learning resources. myLearners enhances the learning to drive process and Victoria's Graduated Licensing System (GLS) and captures data to inform future policy.

myLearners supports learner drivers to develop their capabilities, log their driving practice and encourages gradual progression through the four stages of the learner period. It encourages learner and supervising drivers to work together through the stages and supports supervising drivers to improve their capability, enabling them to review and reflect on their learner's progress.

myLearners functions

More than a digital logbook, myLearners delivers targeted messages to learners and supervisors based on the learner's current driving experience. Messages allow users to better understand the stages of learning to drive and their progress.

Learner and supervising drivers select the specific conditions for each trip, which encourages active consideration and discussion of the type of practice. This aims to ensure practice is appropriate to the learner's ability and that learners experience a range of driving conditions/environments.

myLearners uses data obtained during drives, including hours and trip conditions (e.g road type and weather), to trigger targeted road safety messages.

The targeted messages focus on encouraging learners and supervising drivers to;

- use a staged approach to learning to drive and plan drives appropriate to their logged hours;
- learn about key safe driving behaviours;
- regularly access the road safety resources on the website; and
- communicate and work together.

Educational Website

myLearners includes an educational website which represents a refreshed and digitised version of existing paper based resources.

myLearners resources have been developed in a way that focus on influencing the learner and supervising drivers' behavioural choices and the content is presented in an appealing, concise and digitally engaging format.

Data capture benefits

Since myLearners launched, to date[1], there are 30,158 users, 63,148 approved hours, 130,793 approved trips and 2,431,062 approved kilometres logged.

myLearners uses GPS to automatically track the time, duration and distance of each trip. Other trip conditions require manual selection. myLearners provides a rich source of data enabling a deeper understanding of the learning experience and insights including when learners first practice on a freeway, drive at night, drive with a driving instructor, the duration and frequency of their drives or whether driving practice differs by driver demographics. Supervising drivers' feedback on each trip to learners can also be analysed.

Over time there is the potential to link myLearners data with other VicRoads databases to investigate the relationship between practice patterns and crashes, offences, or performance on the learner permit test, the hazard perception test and the Drive Test.

In summary, myLearners has been designed to support learners and supervising drivers to be more engaged in the learning to drive experience, to have easier and regular access to road safety content and through the data capture, will allow greater insights into the learning process to assist with future policy development.

---

[1] VicRoads myLearners data, 24 September - 4 February 2019