

Analysis of Novice & Young Driver Crashes in Victoria

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Biography

Antonietta Cavallo has worked in the road safety field for 15 years and is employed at VicRoads where she is a Senior Policy Advisor & Psychologist.

During this time Antonietta has undertaken both research and policy in relation to a range of road safety issues, including unprotected road users, speed behaviour, drink driving and speeding programs, driver licensing, and young and novice driver safety.

She has been involved in the design and conduct of research projects, and the development of countermeasures to modify specific road user behaviours to reduce the incidence of road accidents.

Since 1993, Antonietta has been responsible for young driver policy advice, research and programs and has developed a national profile and recognised expertise in this area.

Antonietta was also seconded as a Research Fellow to Monash University Accident Research Centre in 1992 and 1995, where she undertook research to evaluate major Random Breath Testing and Speed Camera programs in Victoria, and developed a Young Driver Research Strategy together with Professor Tom Triggs.

Antonietta's has both an Honours and a Masters degree in psychology. She is a registered psychologist and member of the Australian Psychological Society.

Abstract

Deaths due to road crashes involving newly licensed drivers are a major road safety concern, with first year drivers being three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes compared with experienced drivers. Victoria has made significant gains in terms of increased levels of supervised on-road practice by learners. However, further safety improvements will require further optimisation of current strategies and the adoption of new measures. In order to identify potentially effective measures for future consideration, a detailed and systematic analysis is being undertaken of recent Victorian young/ novice driver crash data linked with licensing information. The focus of the present paper will be on the results of the key characteristics of young driver casualty crashes. Possible countermeasures will be identified based on the results of this analysis.