

Road Safety and Transport

Having access to safe and reliable public transport creates the opportunity to participate and engage in different activities for many young people. In Tasmania, access to safe, reliable and affordable transport continues to be an issue, particularly for young people in rural and remote areas. Public transport is often the only means young people have to access education, employment, training or social activities. Safe, reliable and affordable public transport is crucial to improving options available to young people, and to reduce isolation often experienced by young people from remote locations. Young people are among the top users of public transport and are reliant upon it as they may not be able to afford their own vehicle or are not old enough to be issued with a license. Young people of driving age can face the additional barrier of being unable to gain their license due to lack of services and/or supervision opportunities. Additional services are needed to assist young people in gaining their license as many young people want to drive but don't have the access to driving programs or have no means of gaining the required hours.

For many young people, getting their license and their own vehicle is a priority. Young people make up a large proportion of road statistics and road accidents are one of the leading causes of death of young people. Limiting the access young people have to driving will only create barriers for young people in gaining employment, expanding their social networks and participating in recreational activities. However, road safety initiatives can be highly effective and prevent problems from occurring rather than dealing with them as they arise. Vehicle safety is vital to ensure the general safety of young people. Therefore it is important to have any second hand vehicle checked before purchase as these vehicle may not be road worthy and may have mechanical issues not noticed before purchase, consequently putting the young driver at an increased risk of being involved in a road accident. Insuring their vehicle can be a barrier for many young people with most insurance companies charging a higher rate for young drivers, which can be increased further if one has been involved in an accident. As a result, many young people struggle to afford the cost of insurance and consequently fail to properly insure their vehicle. It is also important that young passengers feel safe in the vehicle. Young passengers often do not speak up



when they are feeling unsafe due to the way the driver is driving and this can be related to attitudes related to driving.

Community and family attitudes and practices affect the behaviours of young drivers. These can include attitudes and practices towards drink driving, speeding and hooning. In order to combat these behaviours, the whole community needs to be involved. For example, 'Attitudinal Driving' workshops focus on attitudes to driving and shared experiences from community volunteers, rather than instructors, providing information on how road accidents impact lives. Access to safe and affordable transport is a key to creating a secure future for young people and is considered to be a determining factor in the health and wellbeing of young people.

YNOT is committed to:

- Promoting a culture of safe public transport and appropriate public transport use.
- Encouraging young people to understand their responsibilities concerning road safety and road use.
- Advocating for assistance in insuring a private vehicle to enable young people to gain vehicle insurance and be able to afford such insurance.
- Ensuring that all young people feel safe on public transport through police, community and school initiatives.
- Advocating for the improvement of safe late night services for young people travelling home at a late hour.
- Advocating for increased services to be implemented to support young people in gaining their drivers license.
- Seeing road safety and driver awareness education sessions put in place for young drivers, with a particular emphasis placed on the risks of using technology while driving.
- Advocating for accessible and affordable learner driver programs to be established to assist young people in obtaining their license.
- Advocating for increased reliable and affordable public transport, particularly in rural and remote areas of the State.

Future Vision

A Tasmania where young people have access to reliable and safe transport, including public transport and private vehicles. Increased road and driver safety awareness initiatives, and where a Tasmania where young people are given opportunities and have access to the resources they need to become independent and self sufficient individuals.

References

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