



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

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INQUIRY INTO

DANGEROUS DRIVING

TO: LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au

FROM: Val Bland

Chair and Committee Members

RE: Inquiry into dangerous driving

This is a very important topic, and thank you for the opportunity to add some input. Too many lives are lost on our roads, with the subsequent effects to family members, permanent disabilities, community effects, first responders, hospital staff and resources, with often long-term care required following permanent disabilities.

Many accidents are preventable.

Your Terms of Reference are mainly concerned with after the event. My suggestion is: Prevention is better than cure.

Therefore, the closest Term of Reference for my recommendation is number h.

INTRODUCTION

Making licences harder to obtain is essential. Too many laws are deliberately broken and the incidence over recent years in the A.C.T. is becoming worse. Ensure that the theory and knowledge has been learnt thoroughly and ensure that their driving capability is very competent. They need to learn to respect a driving licence, and respect other drivers on the roads.

Examples are as follows:

1. Driving around the urban areas with lights on high beam. One driver said to me after I was "blinded" coming out of a Club park said: They must be on automatic. On country roads, lights on high beam also dazzle kangaroos.
2. Crossing unbroken lines, mainly white lines, cutting the car off in front about to merge, when the unbroken line had not ended. Crossing double yellow lines is becoming more frequent. One observed from a distance, hence not close enough to see the number plate, was a small white car, after dark, travelling east on Heysen Street going up Oakey Hill, under the freeway, which crossed over double yellow lines to pass another car.
3. Continual lane changing and crossing from the right lane of a three lane road, right in front of you, to turn off at the nearby slip road.
4. Tail gating.
5. Turning into the curb lane for a speed hump, on the assumption that it is flatter.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Two years for "L" Plates.
2. Stringent testing system where the candidate cannot obtain a substitute to sit the exam.
3. Several practical driving tests with a professional tester.
4. Compulsory attendance at an advanced practical driving test close to obtaining a licence.
5. Licence at age 18. This allows candidates to complete year 12, and not be subject to peer pressure.
6. Two years on "P" plates.