



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

Submission Number: 038.1

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Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 7:48 AM

To: LA Committee - PTCS <LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Acknowledgement: Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Submission Number: 038 for Dangerous Driving inquiry.

Could you please add the following incident to my submission that occurred to me on Sunday 16 October 2022 about 6pm. I have also added some further supporting information.

I was traveling from Fyshwick on Canberra Avenue to turn on the roundabout into Wentworth Avenue, northbound towards Kingston.

As I turned the roundabout, a highly polished black car was coming towards me. I was going quite slow, so stopped, as it was a shock to see a car coming out of Wentworth Avenue towards me from the wrong direction. He eventually stopped quite close to me, as if to say get out of my way. I waved to him in the direction where he should go. He eventually turned left in the correct direction on the roundabout. I was conscious of a van very close on my tail, who luckily stopped behind me and didn't rear end me. As the driver of the black car turned to his left, he appeared well dressed, with dark hair and moustache. It all happened very quickly, and unfortunately I didn't see the registration number as he was too close by the time I realised what was happening. It was a shock to see someone coming towards me head on.

Last evening, the news announced that the three passengers who died in Sunday's fatality on John Gorton Drive in Whitlam, were Bangladesh nationals.

The week before I saw a lady driving a Diplomatic car with young adults as passengers. She was having difficulty with parking in the car park at Mawson.

Some time ago, I watched from a distance, a young driver with a passenger nearly cause two accidents by driving from a give way sign with oncoming traffic at Liardet Street at Cooleman Court, Weston. The second time, it was so close, that he drove into a parking area on the opposite side of the road to recover from the near miss. After about 5 minutes, he drove past and I saw a young Asian couple.

My son was studying Asian studies in Melbourne and five Chinese international students drove around Lake Eildon. Five of them died in a single car crash. My son was absolutely devastated as he knew them all as friends.

Could you please advise what driving tests international drivers are required to undertake to drive on our roads, and to ensure they can read the signs, and understand our road rules? Many just purchase an international licence that enables them to legally drive here, but in many countries, road rules are not complied with.

Do we ensure international people:

1. Can read or understand English?
2. Know the road rules?
3. Pass a driving test?

The road toll is so tragic, and this year has been the worst in the ACT now for many years. A driver's licence should be a privilege, not a right.

Regards

Val Bland