



ROAD SAFETY COLLABORATION DOCUMENT

The content in this collaboration document was worked on at the Dunedin Road Safety Leadership Day - June 28th, 2022. The students that attended were from the Waitaki, Dunedin and Clutha districts.



A massive thank you to the students that came along and worked hard getting their ideas, barriers, and solutions down, and presentations done!

Thank you to the Dunedin City Council, Waitaki District Council and Clutha District Council for sponsoring students to attend. A massive thanks as well to Waitaki Road Safe for sponsoring students from Waitaki to attend and the North Otago Motor Group for putting a van on to get them there! A big thank you as well to the School Community Officers from New Zealand Police who attended the day, it was great for the students to ask you questions learn from you.

Q#1 Why do you think this issue of barriers for young people getting their drivers licence exists in your region?

"A lot of people are excluded from this system because they cannot afford it."

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of information throughout the whole process
- Not getting enough practice
- It's too expensive
- Not everyone has access to a reliable vehicle/has access to one at all
- There is a high demand for testing officers and it can be hard to get a booking

Knowledge gap

All groups commented on there was a lack of accessible information or they didn't know where to find information about how to progress through the driver licence journey.

Practice makes perfect

Students commented that not everyone has a parent or caregiver that is willing to teach them how to drive and even if they did, there is no guarantee that they are going to pass on good habits. Expensive lessons were a barrier as well.

KEY THEMES THAT CAME UP ABOUT WHY THIS IS AN ISSUE:



IT'S COMPLICATED

There seems to be a lot of steps to take to get a licence and often this information isn't presented in a way that is easy for young people to understand.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE MONEY

Communities who cannot afford to apply for a licence or cannot afford a vehicle are automatically excluded from getting a licence.

NOT EVERYONE HAS SUPPORT

It is often assumed that a parent or other family member will teach their young person how to drive but not everyone has that option.

BAD HABITS

Passed down from parents, children/teenagers are always watching them, we need to prepare teens before they drive and have already developed the bad habits.

IT'S STRESSFUL

In some rural communities, a licence isn't just a 'nice to have', its almost a requirement. Many areas in New Zealand do not have good access to public transport, this can leave young people feeling excluded or can lead to driver licence breaches so everyone can get to their destination.

Q#2

What barriers have you seen that stop the community from making progress with this issue?
What barriers could continue to hinder your community making positive progress in this area?

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Parents can put too much pressure on their young people when teaching them to drive
- Often testing centers are all booked out
- There are many places without testing centers so young people have to travel long distances just to get tested/miss school to do so
- Just because someone wants to do it doesn't mean they have to support
- It costs approximately \$338.20 for all three licences, often people can't afford this or to run a vehicle
- It takes a long time (up to two years)
- People don't want to and can't see the point spending the money
- They don't want to become a taxi for their friends and family
- Fear of failure
- Past road trauma could be holding them back
- Lack of confidence behind the wheel
- Not knowing where to go or how to get it done

KEY BARRIERS THAT STOP THE COMMUNITY MAKING PROGRESS ON YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRESSING THROUGH THE DRIVER LICENSE JOURNEY:

ACCESS TO TESTING CENTRES IS A PROBLEM -

People who don't live in a main centre may need to drive over an hour to reach their destination. These are often places that do not have public transport between locations (such as Central Otago) and so it relies on the young person being able to get a lift from a family member, friend etc. If That young person doesn't have access to that kind of support or the people in their lives are simply too busy to help, that young person misses out.

IT CAN BE INTIMIDATING -

Young people feel a lot of social pressure as teenagers from their families and from their peers. Lessons are expensive and not everyone is able to afford them so young people often rely on lessons from parents. However, even when people obtain their licence it doesn't necessarily mean they are confident on the road. Passing the test is only the beginning of becoming a motorist but there does not seem to be enough support for young people during the licensing process or after they pass.

TIME, MONEY AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

Not every young person has an after school job and so the financial responsibility for a licence often falls to immediate family. Not all families have the time to teach their young people how to drive, the money to pay for lessons or the experience and good habits to pass on. The information available to young people on how to get a licence is not easy to read/use and can be a real barrier for young people even getting started.

"My parents don't care. it's not like we're going to get caught."

Q#3

Do any of you have personal experiences related to this road safety issue that you feel comfortable sharing? Have you seen it happening or have experienced it?

"You have to get used to driving in a town you aren't familiar with. You get worried about driving around with others (on the road) and the risk of road rage."

"Making simple mistakes easily knocks a person's confidence."

"I still feel nervous or weary on the roads due to past trauma."

"People fear taking passengers on board because of distractions and distractions in general."

"Being embarrassed by only being on my learners, fear of failing my licence."

"I didn't know how to defrost my car."

"When my car battery goes flat I don't know what to do."

"Once I failed my restricted so I lost lots of confidence."

"I struggle to memorize all of the questions/answers."

"I had to save up for a while to get my licence."

"I didn't have anyone to drive me around, this held me back."



Q#4

What impacts (or consequences) does or can this issue have on young people or the wider community?

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Young people end up paying more in fines when they eventually get caught
- Regret - impacts mental health
- You may not get the job you want due to lack of licence
- Young people may miss out on attending things like sport or social events
- It sets people back
- It causes peer pressure within friend groups
- It causes people to get involved in the criminal justice system early
- Complete lack of freedom
- Lack of experience could make you accident prone
- A vulnerable youth population
- Road rage

"It means young people don't have the freedom they want, so they have to rely on parents to take them places"

It becomes very isolating very quickly when you can't get to social activities.

The current system is a system where cars are needed. If you can't do that, you miss out.

Q#5

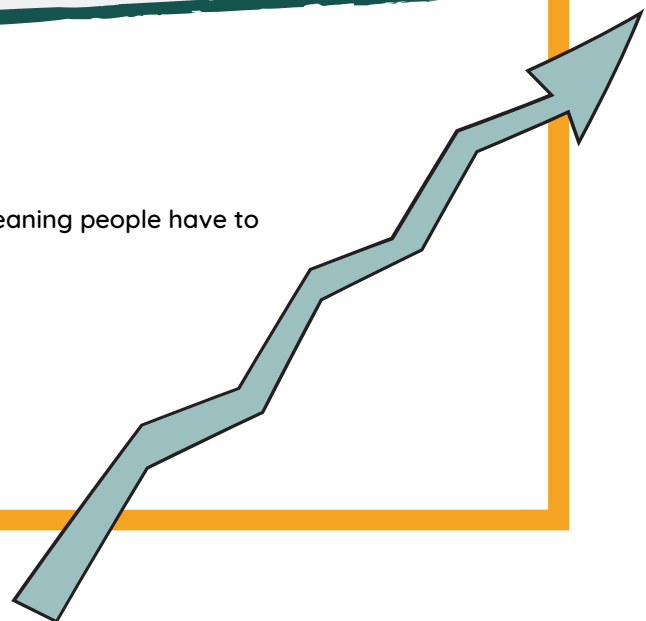
Do you think this issue impacts other communities around New Zealand (not just young people)? What other broader societal factors might contribute to this issue?

IMPACTS ON OTHERS?

- Yes!!
- There is pressure on testing stations, they are often full meaning people have to commute elsewhere
- The people being relied on for carpooling

BROADER SOCIETAL FACTORS?

- Depression
- Peer pressure

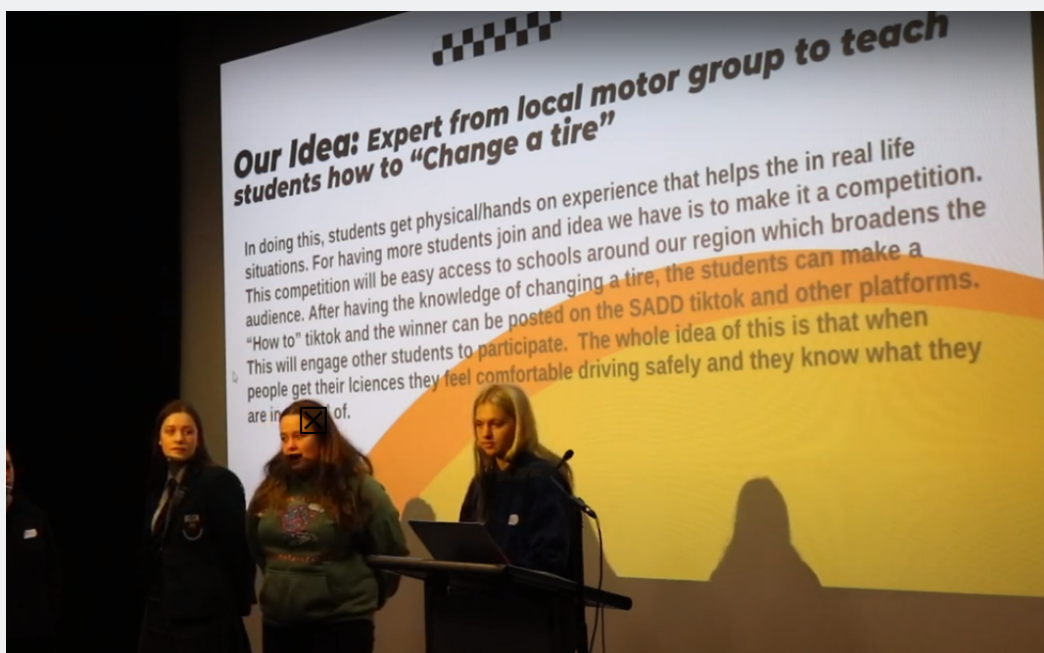


Q#6

What could community partners such as Police, Councils/Road Safety Coordinators, FENZ etc, be doing to help combat this issue?

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Create more support programmes for people on their learner licence similar to the defensive driving course for people on their restricted
- Provide more funding and support
- Promote options for young people in their communities
- Teach young people not to be afraid of sitting their licence
- Take a positive, proactive approach to show young people how to be safe
- Make the defensive driving course more practical
- Teach young people how to deal with hazards
- Target rural areas
- Provide more resources
- Come to school for a talk to spread awareness
- Have free/subsidised lessons for low income people or people without someone to teach them to drive
- Create a network of volunteers to educate young people



Q#7

What could SADD groups in this region do to help combat this issue? (collaboratively or individually)

GENERAL THOUGHTS

- Talk to schools in your region
- Get funding to make resource packs
- Free apps
- Educating peers on how community partners can help and connecting them
- Promotion via social media
- Have more talks in assembly
- Take a positive approach towards driving and focus less on the negatives

How can we prepare young people to have experience driving, not just pass the test?

How can we build young people's confidence? Lack of experience leads to lacks of confidence which leads to accidents.

The system needs to think about how to reach young people by using social media.

"There is so much more to driving than passing the test."

