



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Our ref: PET 13888

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

27 APR 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2289-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera on 26 March 2015 about mandatory driver education and rehabilitation.

The receipt of this petition is timely, as I hosted with my colleague the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, the Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, a Safer Roads, Safer Queensland forum on 10 April 2015. I thought it was important to quickly bring experts together following the worst Easter road toll in Queensland in over 20 years.

The ideas participants shared at the forum including the area of driver education were insightful. This input, together with more detailed submissions and feedback from the broader community, will inform some immediate next steps to be incorporated into a new road safety strategy for Queensland, as well as an action plan to guide efforts over the next two years.

With regard to a mandatory classroom education program for people charged with a traffic offence requiring them to go to court, there are already some programs available for those who have been charged with drink driving offences or who intend to plead guilty to a traffic offence. It is at the discretion of a magistrate or of offenders themselves to decide whether an educational program would be of benefit.

Under the Limit is a drink driving rehabilitation program offered through the magistrate courts in association with a probation order or on legal or self-referral. Since commencement in 1993, over 8300 offenders have been referred to the program, which has been shown to have some success in modifying drink driving behaviour among repeat or high-risk offenders.

The *Queensland Traffic Offenders Program (QTOP)* is an educational court diversion program aimed at providing expert information of an educational nature about the dangers of drink driving and unsafe driving to help deter traffic offenders from reoffending. Informal statistical analysis of the program indicates a reduced rate of reoffending.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is monitoring the evidence for rehabilitation and education programs for drink drivers. Current evidence suggests that rehabilitation courses in association with an alcohol interlock requirement may be an effective option. TMR will continue to review research and best practice regarding educational programs for people convicted of traffic offences in court.

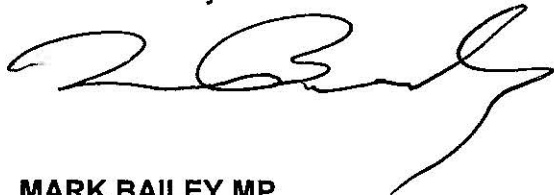
In relation to a mandatory classroom education program for people applying for a Queensland licence, while there are currently no mandatory programs, TMR notes that QTOP is open to the broader community, including educating new drivers on the consequences of committing traffic offences.

TMR is currently reviewing learner driver training and assessment, and is considering an enhanced online learning experience within the Graduated Licensing System framework to improve learning outcomes for pre-learner and learner drivers.

TMR will continue to monitor developments in the areas of education for people applying for a driver's licence for the first time and for those convicted of a traffic offence in court.

I appreciate the interest the petitioners have in the important area of road safety.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping tail extending downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy and Water Supply