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NEWS 13 July 2017

# NSW: More young people steering away from driver's licence



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CONTRIBUTOR

40

Statistics sourced from Transport for New South Wales (NSW) show that more people aged between 17-20 are choosing to go without a driver's licence, with the last five years showing a slow, but steady decline.



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While licence rates across all age groups are slightly up from 10 years ago, 17 to 20-year olds and 21 to 25-year olds are showing a decline over the last five years.

As of 2016, 80.1 per cent of people aged 17 to 20 in **NSW** held a driver's licence - including L-platers and **P-platers** - which is down 1.7 per cent from 2012's figure of 81.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, a stronger decline has been seen in the 21 to 25 age group, with 91.4 per cent of people holding a driver's licence, down from 94.6 per cent in 2012.

However, it's clear the majority of people still hold licences despite the growing population.

"Whilst there is no real change in the proportions of young people with a driver licence between 2007 and 2016 in NSW, there has been a small decline in the percentage of young people holding a licence since 2012," a spokesperson from **Transport for NSW** told *CarAdvice*.

"Despite the very slight decline in licensing levels amongst young people in NSW since 2012, the overwhelming majority of young people continue to hold a driver's licence – in 2016 around four out of five 17 to 20 year olds and eleven out of twelve 21 to 25 years held a licence."



More significant changes have been observed overseas, with British authorities claiming there has been a 20 per cent drop in the overall number of under-25s learning to drive, while the



The UK's *HonestJohn.co.uk* says the reason for such significant declines in Britain can be attributed to skyrocketing insurance costs, with teenagers driving a small hatchback worth around 8000 pounds (\$13,465) are being quoted between 8750-13,498 pounds (\$14,727-\$22,719) for a 12-month comprehensive policy depending on their location.

Back on local soil, *CarAdvice* contacted **VicRoads** for further comments, but are yet to receive a response.

**MORE:** [New South Wales news](#)

## Are you surprised about today's licence rates amongst young people?



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**Nawksi** • 4 years ago

Some people here are talking about this as a problem that requires a solution.

It isn't. If public transport is now strong enough that people don't feel the absolute need to get a drivers licence, but can get around without it, this is a good thing. This is what cities have been building towards for awhile now.

Some are arguing about the cost of car ownership. Nobody is talking about buying a car. Even those people who live with their parents and could borrow their parents' car, are not getting their licences.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Curtis Ling** • 4 years ago • edited

same insurance cost as the value of the car you might as well not have it

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Heisenberg** • 4 years ago

I had my mum as the main driver while I was the secondary driver. I just had to have the purchase paperwork look like she owned the car and I borrowed it now and then, even though I owned the car.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Annette** • 4 years ago

I think you will find most young people simply it's an affordability issue. That young age group are earning peanuts with utilities skyrocketing wages stagnant wages in the service and hospitality industry are disgustingly low, the cost of living in Sydney especially prohibits young people from buying and owning a car plus green slip costs an rego costs are too high add insurance premiums and to top it off you have the disgusting road networks in Sydney are a disgrace and too many toll roads financially owning a car is a burden and unaffordable. better off without .i have two teenage kids in the early twenties neither wants to buy a car only one has their licence, other not interested .

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Otis** ➔ Annette • 4 years ago

Good post Annette. I agree with all of that.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**NX74205** • 4 years ago



How times have changed.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



This comment was deleted.



**guest** ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

The ridiculous speed limits (ie, increasing school zone speed limits to 100km/h and making motorways unrestricted) is a bit pointless anyway, because at most times nobody is going any faster than walking speed unless it is 4:30am in the morning or 9:00pm at night. There are just too many single occupant cars on the road. Something has to change. We can't just keep adding more cars on the road.

There has to be alternative ways for people to get around that do not involve using a car.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



This comment was deleted.



**guest** ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

I've used the rail network for ages and I very rarely experience delays or cancellations, though it may well be that in comparison the Sydney trains are more dependable. I spend about 2 hours per day on the train. Car, if I used it, I would be around 4 hours in that because of the Sydney traffic being so bad. I'd need to leave home earlier, and get to work later.

Stopping all immigration isn't the answer either. The answer is effective public transport options (fast light rail system or active transport for those people who can use them. That will free up the road for other people who do need to use it.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

I don't think the population is "exploding". It took 50 years for the population to go from just over 10 Million in 1960, to 22 Million in 2010. just over double in 50 years. I call that slow.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



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**Otis** ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

I'm pleased that you were able to take up a new life here, and that you made the most of your situation. I suspect that there are many others who





there are still enough natural and technological resources here to support more population. Those resources need to be managed better. That is something that our political systems here chronically fail to do. The potential is still there, but the vision of the various governments in this country is myopic, and selfish. Reduced to three year terms, and 30 second sound bites on TV.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



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**Otis** ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

I hear what you're saying, but I have a big problem with the whole concept of "enforced". But I can see your reasoning, ... with one exception. There IS more land. But the investment lobby(s) want profit return on what is now available. So the pressure on the various governments, (who are advised by their various pressured advisors) , is to slow down land release in order to keep the values of the already released said land artificially high. Greed at work. But hey, I don't have the answers. All I see is a failed and broken political system that demands a lot, but has no solutions. Conversely, If there is a solution, then government is the only system with enough clout to make it happen. Trouble is, government is dysfunctional. The merry-go-round continues.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**save it for the track** • 4 years ago

The article is about NSW licencing, yet the 'file picture' Car Advice uses for a P plate is Victorian..... Are we going to a story soon about learner licensing and you will use a UK file picture for a L plate? Details.....

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Hoggie** • 4 years ago

Ridiculous costs of living in Australia is making it tough for young people. Not to mention the insane obsession by State Govts to extract money from motorists at any chance via insidious Revenue Cameras....it is getting too expensive for the ordinary person to drive on the road, where a minor transgression can cost 100s. In my young days we undertook weekend drives, cruising in the city, going to events, going to the DriveIn etc etc, that is all gone. Of course back then it cost \$500 to fly to Melbourne and \$100 worth of petrol to drive there.....Now it is \$150 to fly and \$500 in petrol. ;).

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** ➔ Hoggie • 4 years ago

all good points Hoggie. I would add internet and personal phones as contributors. Making connections no longer requires physically present in person. The smarter we make the



**Labryz** • 4 years ago

As has been said license ownership and car use aren't necessarily the same thing.

I would definitely be interested in seeing if there was a greater decline in car use by younger people

I wouldn't be surprised if there was.

Cost of ownership, crowded roads, apartments without car spots all this is making driving less and less attractive.

I myself when I was in my 20's had a car but only drove it about 5,000km a year.

It was just easier to either walk or public transport to wherever I needed.

Not to mention in my 20's I would have a few drinks so definitely didn't want to be driving.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Robbo** • 4 years ago

If it's expensive to pay off, park in a city, rego, insure and maintain (servicing, wear and tear), then why pay for a license that you don't need? Especially the cost of getting one now with practical lessons and hours. And if you have no-one in your circles to help you get practise, even more reason to ignore getting a license. And if you can catch the train and bus and Uber/Taxi and fly (because lets face it, what young person wants to do a roadtrip versus selfies in Paris or Bali), then the whole car/license thing is money not required to be spent.

Suits the government though right? Less cars on the road, less spend on infrastructure? :)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**AJS** • 4 years ago

Not surprising. If you've caught the bus/train all your life to school and uni... whats to stop you from doing that when you get a job? Its cheaper than owning a car, less convenient yes, but you aren't paying tyres, rego etc. And those couple of times that public transport lets you down you can now jump in a super cheap Uber and get home that way. Go figure.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Virgil Riyaledy** • 4 years ago

If you do the sums, for many, the owning in of a car is a luxury they can't afford, a bit like turning on the electricity at home.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**AndrewF** ➔ Virgil Riyaledy • 4 years ago

+100!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**BaaBaaBlackJeep** ➔ Virgil Riyaledy • 4 years ago

Article is about licencing, not car ownership?

2 ^ | v 1 • Reply • Share ›





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**guest** ➔ BaaBaaBlackJeep • 4 years ago

so you drive unlicensed?

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**LeStori** ➔ BaaBaaBlackJeep • 4 years ago

And they are not related? You do not need a licence if you do not 'own' a car. It will not be the only factor. If you live in a good public transport area, a car definitely becomes a pointless item for many.

Of course you can always let your girlfriend drive if you are a male. And even better still, have her buy the car so you can spend your money on something really important. Entertainment.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**BaaBaaBlackJeep** ➔ LeStori • 4 years ago

We are on track for a record number of new cars to be sold in Australia and cars have never been cheaper

Many young people have their car registered in their parent's name to save on insurance

Then we have the increase in population, especially in Sydney and Melbourne, where the article gives a percentage of people in certain age groups, not an actual number - there are probably more young drivers than ever

And whilst no doubt a generalisation, many newly arrived migrants are happy to catch public transport and not worry about getting a licence

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**mixedfish** ➔ LeStori • 4 years ago • edited

Definitely not related, I know quite a few people who were originally motivated to get a license for ID purposes, driving as an after thought.

On a separate topic, we really need a citizen's card here.

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**Guest** ➔ mixedfish • 4 years ago

This is true, the requirement for photo ID to open a bank account made life interesting for non drivers. Before the availability of photo ID cards, your choice was a passport or a firearms licence if you couldn't have a DL. I know of an 85 year old woman who got a firearms licence just to be able to



**guest** → mixedfish • 4 years ago

Agreed, but everyone should not only be required to have ID, but also rego. If you leave your home, you should be wearing rego so you can be identified. Just because you don't have a car or a car licence shouldn't be an excuse. Pedestrians should pay their way as well.

If more people paid their way, then we could have more and better roads for us car drivers.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** → guest • 4 years ago

why should everyone be "required" to have ID? that sounds like a government wet dream. making it easier to control everyone under the thumb. (or boot) .. I'm raising my middle finger to that idea!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**guest** → Otis • 4 years ago

Because, motorists are required to, so everyone else should. And besides, pedestrians run red lights, so it should be easier to identify them and fine them.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** → guest • 4 years ago

motorists are required to have a licence to drive a vehicle. That's a long way from "requiring" everybody to have an ID. We are all inside government computers under some number or another, whether we drive or not. Enough is enough. Next you will want us all microchipped like the family pet. Good little government pets we will all become. Not this dog.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Cavallino Rampante** → guest • 4 years ago

Rego plates for people are a bit impractical. Maybe the IBM system used in Germany: A compulsory tattoo with a numerical code on the inside of the forearm. A bit like a VIN that indicates place and year of manufacture as well a type of manufacturer.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** → Cavallino Rampante • 4 years ago

and we all know what that reminds us of don't we.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**mixedfish** → guest • 4 years ago

Yes, that's why I mentioned people should have a citizen's card. Last time



^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**buscar** → mixedfish • 4 years ago

The 'Australia Card' circa 1987 I think. Our department had the software all ready to go, before it got canned in parliament.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**BarnyardGambler** → mixedfish • 4 years ago

...Pretty sure proof of age cards exist.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**mixedfish** → BarnyardGambler • 4 years ago

Not the same thing, the biggest issue is proof of age is a lesser form of ID compared to drivers licence, look at bank or Government applications the hierarchy of a drivers license will be greater.

And then the biggest immediate benefit for coming of age teens. A lot dumbarse bouncers won't identify proof of age cards but they will with a drivers one.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**f1worldchamp** → mixedfish • 4 years ago

In NSW, you can already get an ID card from the RMS. Completely separate to a licence.

Considering the expense, seems an awfully difficult way to get an ID.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Pauly** → Virgil Riyaledy • 4 years ago

Spot on. No wage growth, cost of living increasing and insane property prices. Young people don't have the luxury to own cars anymore. I have a number of mates that couldn't care less about owning and running a car at the moment, just trying to live in Melbourne and Sydney is expensive enough.

What will be interesting to see is if young people getting licensed in other states outside VIC and NSW is increasing. I know a few people in their mid to late 20's that are moving interstate as they can't justify living in Melbourne and Sydney anymore.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Otis** → Pauly • 4 years ago

it's not that much cheaper elsewhere. well okay, it's got to be a good chance of being cheaper. bubbles going to burst sooner or later. we are now getting whole generations where owning a home has become almost impossible. and renting



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