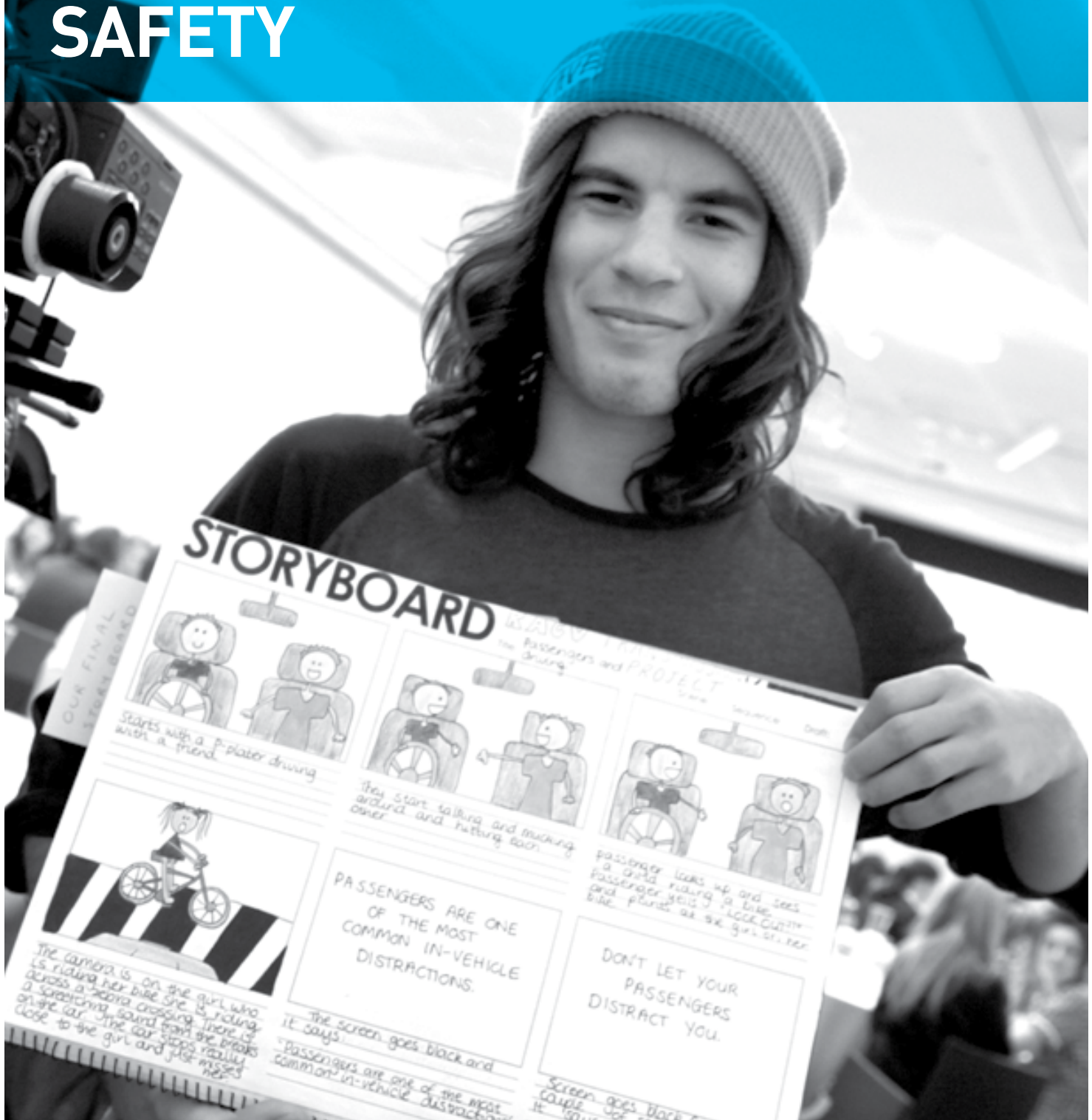


YOUTH ROAD SAFETY



EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

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Young people continue to be at a high risk of crash involvement on our roads. Many schools and other groups are concerned about this and wish to deliver road safety programs for young people.

In order to deliver effective programs and policies, schools and community groups need to target their efforts on research based approaches as some approaches are more effective than others. The TAC and VicRoads have conducted a detailed analysis of the road safety evidence and have developed good practice guides based on this research to assist schools and community groups.

What approaches should schools use?

Schools should ensure that road safety programs are:

- › designed to fit within the school curriculum, are developmentally appropriate and delivered at different time points through a student's school life rather than one-off events, talks and forums
- › interactive and encourage students to develop social competence and resilience rather than purely information based programs
- › part of a whole school approach including road safety policies and teacher support and training
- › designed to engage with school parents and the local community given the vital role they play
- › enhanced by measures to increase school connectedness among students and their parents.

What approaches should community groups use?

Community road safety groups should deliver road safety programs and campaigns that are:

- › multi-action and integrated programs are delivered over time to address the complex factors underpinning many road safety problems
- › designed to enhance and encourage a safer culture in the local community
- › engaging for young people, their parents and other important community partners
- › evidence-based programs, rather than approaches that intuitively feel good.



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What topics should be covered?

Youth related road safety programs should inform and support:

- ✓ the Graduated Licensing System (GLS) focusing on learners undertaking 120 hours of driving practice and helping young people develop strategies to comply with the peer passenger and alcohol restrictions for novice drivers
- ✓ the importance of choosing a safe vehicle safety, especially for young drivers
- ✓ understanding and encouraging compliance with road laws
- ✓ linking with age appropriate alcohol and drug prevention programs, especially as they relate to young road user safety
- ✓ encouraging parents to be good road safety role models and providing parents with strategies to help reduce the risks their children face as road users
- ✓ drink driving prevention through a range of mechanisms to reduce community level access to alcohol among young people.

It should be noted that research shows that high risk young people and young offenders need specialist programs that are delivered by trained professionals, rather than community road safety groups.

What approaches should be avoided?

There is research evidence to suggest that some approaches are not likely to be effective for young road users. Schools and community groups should avoid programs and initiatives that:

- ✗ involve off-road driver training and especially **avoid** any driving skill based programs
- ✗ are stand-alone one day or one off events, forums and expos
- ✗ rely on fear appeals or involve trauma ward visits, or testimonials from crash victims or offenders
- ✗ rely on driver simulation or utilise beer or fatal vision goggles
- ✗ encourage participation or membership of racing car clubs or go-karting
- ✗ are purely knowledge based and rely on providing information or facts to create behaviour change.