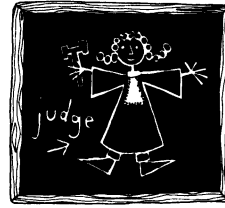


LEGAL STUDIES

L-Plates, Logbooks and Losing Out



Many states now require learner drivers to undertake and log substantial hours of supervised driving prior to taking their licence test. In her article, L-Plates, Logbooks and Losing Out, Bronwyn Naylor looks at issues this requirement raises and its impact on disadvantaged groups in the community.

This activity is in three parts. The first part, to be completed by students prior to reading the article, provides a background understanding of why some states are now requiring a minimum number of supervised driving hours. Part 2 looks at some of the issues raised in the article. Then, in Part 3, students design their own information booklet on the law for learner drivers.

Part 1

Before you read the article, find out what the statistics tell us about young people and driving. Working in small groups, use the Internet to find out more about road accidents.

1. Go to nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2009/injcat129.php and click on the PDF version of the report. Use the statistics in the section *Serious injury due to road vehicle traffic crashes, Australia, 2006–07*, and prepare:

- a bar graph to illustrate the age groups for both males and females involved in road accidents in Australia;
- a pie chart to illustrate the different types of road accidents that resulted in injury;

2. Use the website tacsafety.com.au/jsp/statistics/overview.do?areaID=12 to answer the following questions. Note that these statistics are Victorian.

- Read the section on *Drink Driving*, and prepare a pie chart illustrating the number of drivers 21 and over, and the number of drivers under 21, who have been found to be drinking and driving.
- Go the *Online Crash Database*. What were the five most common accidents involving 18 to 20 year olds that resulted in serious injury?

3. What conclusions can you draw from these statistics about young drivers?

Part 2

Read the article 'L-Plates, Logbooks and Losing Out'.

1. A number of states have introduced the requirement for a set number of supervised driving hours before taking a provisional licence test.

- Suggest reasons why a minimum number of supervised hours may be required;
- What evidence is presented in the article to support the introduction of a minimum number of hours of 'supervised driving'?

2. The article highlights that some groups in the community find it difficult to fulfill these requirements.

- Which groups in the community might find it difficult to fulfill the requirement?
- Suggest reasons why some groups would find it difficult.
- Can you think of any other reasons why someone may find the requirements difficult?

3. The article's subheading is 'Regulating for safety — or creating new criminals?' Identify and explain the different ways in which the requirement to complete a set number of hours of supervised driving could create 'new criminals'.

Part 3

Find out more about the requirements for learner drivers in your state or territory. Prepare an information brochure for young people, to explain:

- the laws about learner drivers;
- why a learner driver needs supervised driving practice;
- where you can obtain further information about learning to drive.

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