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Incentives may improve driver behaviour

17dec04

MOST TALKED ABOUT **P-plate training**

ON the subject of how to reduce the road deaths of P-platers (16/12), I'm troubled by the fact that the main theme is legislation, making and enforcing more road rules. I believe in the carrot and stick system, but all the talk so far is about stick, I haven't heard anything about carrot as yet.

The talk so far can only put extra pressure on those responsible young drivers, simply because they have P-plates on their cars and there are many of those. We tend only to notice and remember the bad behaviour of the few.

Would it not be a good idea to offer incentives by way of rewards for reported acts of courtesy by these young people, because many of them are responsible and courteous both on and off the road? Bad behaviour by many of us older drivers must frustrate some of those youngsters.

Harold Hunt
Bigga, NSW

JUST how few hours of training does Andrew Leigh (Opinion, 15/12) think would be good for young drivers?

Is the problem that we are already giving them too much? Why bother with any training, why bother testing them for licences?

How does he explain the Australian truck drivers and motorcycle riders, who seem to have responded well to their compulsory extra training?

I hope he sticks to his theories and looks for a minimally trained pilot when next he flies.
Will Hagon
Beaconsfield, NSW

COULD someone please explain why the old speed limits in South Australia of 60, 80 and 110km/h have been replaced by 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 and 110 km/h? And why are the bulk of the 50km/h speed zones not sign-posted?

In the interests of road safety, wouldn't we be better off with fewer, consistently applied speed limits? Or does a government reliant on speeding fines income have a vested interest in maintaining uncertainty in drivers' minds?

Peter Ward

Port Broughton, SA

Some suggestions for creating better drivers: How about safer driving programs for all drivers, not just young drivers? How about compulsory resitting of the written and practical test every so often for all drivers? How about tougher penalties?

Kenneth Vaughan

Highgate Hill, Qld

DAY in and day out we hear about the "road carnage" that kills people. In comparison, thousands of people are dying from preventable diseases and diseases which could be cured by surgery – if they could get it.

If the same emphasis was given to unfortunate people dying on hospital waiting lists because they cannot get a bed, or to those who are waiting for bypass surgery and radiation treatment for cancer, as that given to radar cameras and speed traps, many lives would be saved. Why is the government's attention directed more towards speed cameras, and punitive measures against motorists that fail to save lives? It is because the government doesn't make any money out of saving the lives of sick and disadvantaged people but they make heaps out of speed cameras.

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