

Adolescent Risk Research Unit

Rise, and shine.

Provisional drivers' perception of the impact of displaying P plates

Bates, L., Scott-Parker, B., Darvell, M. & Watson, B. (2017)

Traffic Injury Prevention, 18, 8, 820-825

doi: 10.1080/15389588.2017.1322697

The full article is accessible at – <http://bit.ly/2yuXJTh>



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Why do this research?

In most Australian states and territories, young drivers display a P-plate to indicate that they are driving independently for the first period in their driving career. So what is the young drivers perception of having to display this P-plate in Queensland, Australia?

What did we do?

Two hundred and twenty-six young drivers with a P-plate completed an online survey.

What did we find?

Generally, young drivers approved of the requirement to display a P-plate. Whether on the red or green plate (the second P-plate phase), young drivers supported having to display a red or green plate. Young drivers felt, however, displaying this plate made them a target for Police and for other drivers.

What does it mean?

Interestingly, what we found was that young drivers who displayed their P-plates were more likely to be more careful drivers. In this way, something as simple as a magnetised decal at the front and the rear of the car can improve young driver road safety, and the road safety for everyone with whom they share the road.