



Media Release

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Nearly 60% of Aussies are open to school dropout licensing ban

The majority of Australians are open to a ban on high school dropouts getting their driver's license, according to a Carsguide.com.au survey released today.

The move is being proposed as a strategy to encourage young people to stay in school in US. Lawmakers in Minnesota are currently considering a Bill that would not allow school dropouts to get their license.

With two-thirds of Americans supporting the 'no license for drop-outs law', Carsguide.com.au asked more than 1,200 Australians their view on the policy and whether it should be considered in Australia.

The Carsguide.com.au survey revealed:

- Nearly 60% would consider barring school dropouts (unless they leave to learn a trade) from getting a driver's license.
- 48% said the government should be able to ban dropouts from getting a license, while another 9% voted 'maybe'.
- 41% of those polled said 'definitely not', and a mere 2% were not sure one way or the other.

"Most are open to the idea that if teenagers are not attending high school or learning of a trade, they should not have a license," says Carsguide.com.au editor, Karla Pincott.

"However, those who are against it are extremely passionate in their opposition to linking school participation to licensing with many citing their own experience and success."

"It's certainly a controversial concept that gets many hot under the collar."

Views expressed include:

"I'm a teacher and a driver. Yes, ban school dropouts. Ultimately dysfunctional parents breed and drivers aged from 18-25 make up the majority of the road toll. Let's get back to proper driving tests and keep the imbeciles off the road," says Vic of Maitland, NSW.

"Great idea. These kids need education not V8 cars with which to kill themselves and others," says Willy of St Albans NSW.

"I know I'd have definitely tried a lot harder at uni if losing my license was a consequence of withdrawing." Alasdair Underwood of Melbourne

"I was a high school dropout and I have been driving road trains for the past 10 years," Trevor Leighton

"School education is becoming less relevant as people with double doctorates are getting jobs at service stations," commented William Hamilton of Brisbane.

"Draconian laws are not the answer, driver education is." Joe Humphries of Ipswich, Queensland

While Simon of NSW cited a case nobody could argue with. "How about we ask Lindsay Fox for his opinion? The 10th richest man in Australia, he was asked to leave school due to his 'lack of academic interest' at year 10, and became a truck driver."

****Carsguide's Neil Dowling and Karla Pincott are available for interviews to discuss the dropout licensing ban and Carsguide.com.au's poll findings****

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