

# Graduated Licensing Scheme for Motorcycle Riders



**Premier Nathan Rees announced the introduction of a new licensing scheme for motorcycle riders to help reduce the number of beginner riders involved in crashes.**

Mr Rees said that young and inexperienced riders are significantly over-represented in crashes.

“Motorcyclists aged under 20 are almost five times more likely to crash than other motorbike riders,” Mr Rees said.

“Last year, around 350 beginner riders were involved in crashes across the State.

“That’s why we are introducing this scheme which will be similar to a motor vehicle licence extending the minimum provisional period for motorcycle riders from one to three years.”

Mr Rees said that the changes will be introduced in June and mean that riders will stay on a provisional licence for a minimum of three years with the same P1 and P2 phases as car drivers.

“Provisional rider restrictions will now be in place for a longer period giving riders time to gain confidence and experience on the road.

“The restrictions for P1 drivers are a zero blood alcohol limit, a maximum speed restriction of 90km/h and a loss of licence for incurring four or more demerit points.

“For P2 drivers it also means a zero blood alcohol limit, a maximum 100km/h speed limit and a licence suspension for their second speeding offence.

“This is about saving lives and reducing the number of people injured on our roads by ensuring riders gain more experience.”

Roads Minister Michael Daley said that currently riders must hold a learner

licence for a minimum of three months before attending a pre-provisional course.

“They must then be on a P1 provisional licence for a minimum of 12 months before applying for a full licence,” Mr Daley said.

“The minimum three year period on a provisional licence will raise the age for getting an unrestricted rider licence from 18 to 20.

“The provisional P1 phase will be a requirement of all riders, regardless of age but

there will be an exemption from the P2 phase for riders over 25 who also hold an unrestricted car driver licence.

“This exemption recognises car driving experience and brings NSW in line with other States.”

For information on current licence requirements visit [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

## Cancer Council NSW asks Greek community to share radiotherapy experiences

Many people in NSW are missing out on life-saving radiotherapy treatment, so Cancer Council NSW is asking the state’s Greek community to share their radiotherapy experiences in a one-month Call-in to Cancer Council’s Helpline.

In NSW, less than 40 per cent of people requiring radiotherapy received the treatment in 2008, which falls significantly below the internationally accepted benchmark of 52 per cent.

Cancer Council estimates that about 5,000 cancer patients each year do not receive the treatment they require.

NSW lacks the capital equipment and radiotherapy workforce needed to meet current or future needs, placing strain on the existing system. This means some cancer patients are not able to start radiotherapy treatment within the clinically recommended standard of 21 days.

“In many areas, geographical distance creates additional problems for people living in areas without radiotherapy treatment centres,” Dr Andrew Penman, CEO at Cancer Council NSW said. “The burden of travel, accommodation away from home and out-of-pocket expenses can cause a great deal of stress during an already difficult time.”

In some parts of the state, there are only private radiotherapy centres. Patients without private health insurance either face personal costs of thousands of dollars, or have to travel further from home for treatment that typically ranges from three to six weeks. During the Radiotherapy Call-in, experi-

enced health professionals trained in oncology who staff Cancer Council NSW’s Helpline, will answer calls throughout March as part of an initiative to better understand the radiotherapy experiences of cancer patients and their families. A telephone interpreting service is also available to those who don’t speak English (tel 13 14 50).

“Despite the fact that many health professionals involved in radiotherapy

are doing the best they can in difficult circumstances, poor patient access to radiotherapy has been a long standing concern for Cancer Council NSW,” said Dr Penman.

“This Radiotherapy Call-in is an opportunity for cancer patients and people affected by cancer to share their experiences about waiting times and access to facilities. We want to hear people’s personal stories so we can learn more about how the state’s current service levels are impacting patient wellbeing.”

Cancer Council’s Radiotherapy Call-in runs on weekdays during March, from 9am – 5pm. Callers can contact the Call-in by ringing Cancer Council’s Helpline on 13 11 20. The telephone interpreting service is available by calling 13 14 50.

WHAT: Radiotherapy Call-in to Cancer Council’s Helpline

WHO: Cancer specialists and health professionals

WHEN: Tuesday 3 March 2009 – Tuesday 31 March 2009, 9am-5pm

WHERE: Across New South Wales. Cancer Council’s Radiotherapy Call-in can be accessed from anywhere across the state for the cost of a local call on 13 11 20.



**Cancer Council**

## City of Sydney Living in Harmony Festival 2009

The City of Sydney will celebrate Harmony Day with the Living in Harmony Festival 2009. The Living in Harmony Festival 2009 features over 12 events throughout March and April, providing Australians with an opportunity to think about our community’s success as a multicultural society; re-commit to continuing respect, good will and understanding between Australians of all backgrounds; and say ‘no’ to racism. All events are free and bookings are essential. All enquiries to [livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) or 9265 9333.

### MARCH 2009

- Ultimo Pyrmont Uptown Festival  
Date: Saturday, 21 March 2009  
Time: 11:00am – 4:30pm  
Venue: Quarry Green, Quarry Street (off Harris Street), Ultimo.

- NSW AMES Multicultural Concert and Market Day  
Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2009  
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Venue: Redfern Town Hall

- Cross-Cultural Tours  
Tuesday, 24 March 2009, The Great Synagogue, Sydney, 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
Monday, 30 March 2009, Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, Auburn, 2:00pm 4:00pm

- City of Sydney Library Services Author Talk: Banafsheh Serov presents Under a Starless Sky  
Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2009  
Time: 12:30pm – 1:15pm  
Venue: Ultimo Library

- Russian Storytime and Dollmaking  
Date: Saturday, 14 March 2009  
Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm  
Venue: Waterloo Library

### APRIL 2009

- Cross-Cultural Awareness Training  
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2009  
Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm  
Venue: Redfern Community Centre

- Chinese Cultural Days  
Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2009 (Workshops) & Friday, 17 April 2009 (Performances)  
Time: 10:30am – 4:00pm each day  
Venue: Chinese Garden of Friendship, Darling Harbour

- Youth in Harmony Photographic Exhibition Launch  
Dates: Wednesday, 22 April 2009  
Time: 6:30pm for a 7pm start  
Venue: Pine Street Creative Arts Centre, Chippendale

- Indonesian Cultural Day  
Date: Friday, 24 April 2009  
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Venue: Ultimo Community Centre

- Cross-Cultural Tours  
Friday, 3 April 2009, Aboriginal Heritage Tour, Royal Botanic Gardens, 1:30pm – 3:30pm  
Monday, 20 April 2009, The Rocks Walking Tour, The Rocks, 10:30 am-12:00pm