

DRIVER SAFETY X SUPERCHEAP AUTO CHECK IT RESEARCH AUGUST 2018

Despite owning older, less safe cars, young drivers are not taking personal responsibility for their vehicle's safety

- The majority of Australians and New Zealanders aged 25 and under are driving a vehicle that is more than half a decade old, with three in 10 owning a car that's more than 10 years old
- Despite this, 38 per cent of young drivers haven't ever considered what they would do if their car suddenly broke down
- In fact, one in five drivers aged 25 and under do not worry about undertaking any car safety checks - leaving it to someone else or naively believing that warning light will alert them to any safety issue
- When it comes to outsourcing their vehicle's safety responsibilities, dad comes in at number one. In fact, one in five drivers aged 25 and under leave basic car safety checks to their father, while an additional one in five leave it to another male friend, partner or brother
- Comparatively, only two per cent leave it to mum, and one per cent to another female friend, partner or sister
- That said, New Zealand youths are far better at undertaking their own vehicle checks. In Australia, 84 per cent of drivers aged 25 and under don't perform their own safety checks, where as across the Tasman, while still the majority, this number decreases to 66 per cent (or two thirds)
- Added to this, 16 per cent of drivers aged 25 and under have no established routine for either checking or having their vehicle checked
- More scary still, one in 10 young drivers do not have their car serviced unless something breaks or if they can avoid it some other way

And when car issues do occur younger people are prepared to take a safety risk in favour of frivolous activity

- Young drivers are four times more likely to blow \$50 on a meal out with friends than they would on replacing a worn windscreen wiper or broken headlight
- In fact, young drivers are more likely to spend money cleaning their car than they are fixing a critical safety issue

- What's more, two in five drivers aged 25 and under have knowingly driven on a car that had a safety issue at the time
- And if faced with an issue, such as a warning light or suspected flat tyre, the majority are prepared to keep driving
- In fact, more than half would run the risk if they were running late for a work or social occasion
- Frighteningly, more than a quarter would run this risk simply because it was cold or raining

However, there is hope for improvement. It's not all about poor attitude towards safety, but rather a lack of skills and knowledge proving to be the biggest barrier

- A third of young people claim they don't know anything about basic car checks
- While the majority knew how to check the car's oil, less than half could check the car's coolant and change windscreen wipers, and under a third could check and address power steering and brake fluid, or brake and headlight issues
- However, more than two in five (43 per cent) of young drivers believe being able to undertake basic car safety checks is an important skill that every driver should know
- Added to this, two thirds of those without any car safety check knowledge are eager to learn how to perform these activities
- Additionally, 29 per cent of young people who do know some basic car safety checks plan on learning more