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To: "alex.douglas@parliament.vic.gov.au" <alex.douglas@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
Date: 31/05/2011 12:49 PM  
Subject: Parliament of Victoria Joint Investigatory Committee Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety

Submission No. #01  
Received  
Road Safety Committee

Dear Sir

Re the Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety

I have read over the terms of reference and strongly believe far more emphasis needs to be put on training. Especially when accumulating crash data as I believe experience is not necessarily learning.

Training is not experience but experience is not training either.

Being a returning rider myself I have done a fair bit of advanced training that I had never bothered with before with my wife (a new rider) and it has become obvious that merely "riding" only teaches you up to a point.

You can ride for years without having any new experiences therefore not gaining any new skills. Where as training pushes your limits in a controlled environment so you actually increase and refine your skill levels and therefore become a more competent and safer rider.

With road congestion becoming what it is and people resorting to PTW's (powered two wheelers) in their droves if proper and adequate training is not addressed I foresee accidents with horrific injuries and fatalities becoming far worse than they are at current.

Even without looking at the info/data I can see new motorcyclists (L Plater's) in and around Melbourne in larger numbers than I have ever seen. The Vicride initiative is a good step forwards as far as road craft is concerned but this does not teach you how to "handle" a bike in an emergency situation.

Finally I believe with adequate training and perhaps some changes to bus/transit lane sharing laws Melbourne will become a far less congested and safer place.

Thank you very much in advance for the consideration of this information

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