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## MEDIA RELEASE

# Young Drivers course to increase opportunity for remote communities

**Tuesday, March 12**

The peak body representing young people in NSW has today welcomed the announcements by Minister Gay on young drivers.

Eamon Waterford, Director - Policy & Advocacy at the Youth Action & Policy Association (YAPA), today said, “These changes are commendable. They will reduce the number of young people shut out of employment by restrictive driving regulations, while increasing safety on our roads”.

YAPA has advocated for a reduction in Learner Driver hours for a number of years, and was a member of the NSW Government’s Advisory panel on the Safer Drivers course.

Domestic and International research has found that there are rapidly diminishing returns on learner driver hours beyond 80. Meanwhile, safer driver courses with professional driver trainers have a strong evidence base for success.

“At the same time, many young people from rural and remote areas of NSW have told us they can’t complete the 120 hours to get their P Plates. Because of this, they miss out on employment or further education options”, Mr. Waterford said today, “anything that increases opportunities for young people, while maintaining safety, is a win in our book”

The decision to pilot a restricted provisional driver’s license for remote communities will also increase opportunities for young people.

YAPA has also welcomed the decision to increase Learner Driver speed limits to 90 km/h. Following the Auditor-General’s report, it was clear that 80 km/h was insufficient to give learners the skills required to handle Freeway and Motorway driving.

For additional comment, please contact Eamon Waterford, YAPA Director – Policy & Advocacy on 0431 534 790.