



## Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister of Transport  
Minister for Communications  
and Information Technology

Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Infrastructure

30 OCT 2009

22 OCT 2009

Ms Ann Martin  
Chief Executive  
Age Concern New Zealand  
PO Box 10-668  
**WELLINGTON 6143**

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter of 9 September 2009 about the withdrawal of funding for the 'Safe with Age' course for mature road users.

I have asked for information from the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) to assist in responding to the issues you have raised.

The NZTA is aware the Safe with Age course was very popular among mature drivers in the community. However, the course nationally had a very low impact—reaching only 4,000 participants a year out of a potential pool of 807,165 licence holders over the age of 55 (Ministry of Transport figures as at 2 July 2007). This meant the course was not effective in reach or in cost.

Although the NZTA is no longer funding courses, I am aware that in the interim, a number of providers are looking to fund and run their own workshops for mature drivers based on the Safe with Age content. I understand Age Concern providers have been informed of the policy around the use of existing Safe with Age materials. It is the NZTA's intention that these will help to 'bridge the gap' until a new mature driver educational initiative becomes available.

I appreciate that you have asked for a review of this decision. However, all due care and consideration was given when this decision was made.

The government remains committed to improving safety for mature drivers, but a more cost-efficient programme to reach a greater proportion of them is required. The NZTA will be considering alternative mature driver education approaches, and plan to pilot a new approach in 2010–2011.

Transport officials and I welcome the input that the National Office of Age Concern could provide in redeveloping older driver education.

The NZTA will keep you informed of developments in this area.

Thank you for your bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form the name 'Steven Joyce'.

**Steven Joyce**  
**Minister of Transport**