

## Wiser Driver Courses Evaluation Summary Report

Between June 2021 and July 2022, Surfcoast Shire Council hosted eleven Wiser Driver Courses. Eight courses were delivered in the Torquay/Bellbrae communities and one course each was delivered in Lorne, Winchelsea and Anglesea. In total, there were one hundred and seventy nine (179) participants. At the conclusion of the final session, participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the course. This was in survey format and participants completed it in person. One hundred and forty two participants (142) completed the surveys (79%).

The survey is a standard tool used by ACCESS Health and Community to evaluate each course they run.

Table 1: Age range of participants: 103 responses (72.5%)

Age Range	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-85	86-95+	Total
No. of Participants	12	25	38	23	5	103

*Of the 103 respondents, 12 were in the 65-69 year age group; 25 were in the 70-74 year age group; 38 in the 75-79 year age group; 23 in the 80-85 year age group and 5 respondents were in the 86-95+ year age group.*

Table 2: Where did you hear about the course? 123 responses (87%)

Local Newspaper	Council News	Club/Retirement Village	Community Centre	Family/Friend
28 (23%)	28 (23%)	54 (44%)	7 (6%)	6 (5%)

*Of the 123 respondents, 28 heard about the course in their local newspaper (Surfcoast Times, Winchelsea Star, Lorne Independent); 28 heard about the course via Council news (Mayor's Corner or Social Media); 54 respondents received information about the course from a community group (e.g. Probus, Senior Citizens Clubs) or through their retirement village and 6 heard about the course from a family member or friend.*

Table 3: Why did you decide to join the Wiser Driver Course?

To update knowledge of road rules	126 (89%)	To maintain general driving knowledge	125 (88%)
To maintain confidence in driving	83 (58%)	To check ability to continue driving	55 (39%)
To learn about older driver assessments	45 (32%)	To learn about alternatives to driving	23 (16%)

The overarching reasons for joining the Wiser Driver Course were to update knowledge of road rules (89%) and to maintain general driving knowledge (88%). Other reasons included to maintain confidence in driving (58%); to check ability to continue driving (39%); to learn about older driver assessments (32%) and to learn about alternatives to driving (16%).

**Did it live up to your expectations?** Yes: 78 responses No: 0

Only 78 respondents answered this question, likely because it was difficult to see on the survey form. Of the 78 responses, 100% agreed that the course lived up to their expectations. Although some participants missed this question, all participants responded to the statements in the table below that refer to expectations.

Table 4: Expectations about the Course

<b>I could share experiences</b>	98 (69%)	<b>I was able to question and clarify</b>	108 (76%)
<b>I could discuss problems</b>	91 (64%)	<b>It gave up-to-date information</b>	115 (81%)

In terms of expectations about the course, 81% agreed it gave up-to-date information; 76% agreed they were able to question and clarify; 69% agreed they could share experiences and 64% of respondents agreed they could discuss problems.

Table 5: What particular parts were of most benefit?

<b>Road rules review (roundabouts, intersections etc.)</b>	130 (91.5%)	<b>Police Visit</b>	N/A
<b>Driving habits and hazards</b>	106 (75%)	<b>VicRoads Rules Handbooks</b>	112 (79%)
<b>VicRoads on-line videos</b>	41 (29%)	<b>Health Factors</b>	50 (35%)
<b>Vehicle Safety Features</b>	58 (41%)	<b>Pedestrian Safety</b>	60 (42%)
<b>Alternative Travelling Options</b>	13 (9%)	<b>RACV Years Ahead Videos</b>	21 (15%)
<b>List of useful telephone contacts and websites</b>	40 (28%)	<b>Motorised Mobility Scooters</b>	10 (7%)

In this section, respondents were able to choose as many options as they liked in relation to which parts of the course they found most beneficial. 91.5% of respondents found the Road Rules Review to be of most benefit; 79% found the VicRoads Rules Handbooks to be very useful; 75% felt the section on Driving Habits and Hazards was beneficial; 42% valued the section on Pedestrian Safety; 41% appreciated the section on Vehicle Safety Features; 28% thought the List of Contacts and Websites was beneficial; 15% of respondents valued the RACV Years Ahead Videos; Alternative Travelling

Options discussions were beneficial for 9% of respondents and 7% found the discussion on Motorised Mobility Scooters to be of most benefit.

### Will you continue to refer to the VicRoads *Road to Solo Driving Handbook* in future?

140 participants responded YES to this question. 2 participants did not respond YES or NO.

Table 6: How would you rate your tutor?

	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>Knowledge of relevant information</b>	141 (99%)	1	
<b>Rapport with the group</b>	139 (98%)	3	
<b>Responses to participant's questions</b>	137 (96%)	5	

99% of respondents rated the tutor's knowledge of relevant information as very good. 98% felt she had a very good rapport with the group and 96% believed the tutor's responses to participant's questions were very good – overall the tutor received a 98% positive rating.

Table 7: After completing this course will you consider doing any of the following in future?

<b>Enroll in an on-road Driver Refresher Course</b>	51 (36%)	<b>Use alternative transport options</b>	22 (15%)
<b>Speak to my doctor about driving</b>	23 (16%)	<b>Refer to VicRoads Driver Handbooks</b>	105 (74%)
<b>Report a medical condition to VicRoads</b>	20 (14%)	<b>Take time to plan safer driving routes</b>	56 (39%)
<b>Look up VicRoads on-line videos and websites</b>	80 (56%)	<b>Plan for when I no longer drive</b>	49 (34.5%)
<b>Discuss this course with family/friends</b>	108 (76%)	<b>Consider vehicle safety features if buying new/used car</b>	79 (56%)

Respondents were able to choose as many options as they liked in answering this question. 76% of respondents stated they would discuss this course with family/friends; 74% would consider referring to their VicRoads Drivers Handbooks; 34.5% had intentions to make plans for when they are no longer driving; 56% would look up VicRoads on-line videos and websites; 56% would consider vehicle safety features if buying a new or used car; 39% would take more time to plan safer driving routes; 36% of respondents would consider enrolling in an on-road Driver Refresher Course; 15% would now use alternate transport options; 16% would now consider speaking to their doctor about driving, and 14% would report a medical condition to VicRoads.

### Would you recommend Wisser Driver?

- “All Seniors who are still driving should do this Course.”
- “An increased awareness of my ability and confidence to keep driving while it is still possible.”

- “An excellent instructor. This course was very good and made me much more aware of road rules and I think made me a better driver. It also gave me confidence as an older driver.”
- “Definitely it was very informative and I learnt a lot that was new and also that I had forgotten.”
- “Our age group really have been driving for a long time and definitely need to revise road rules and practice them.”
- “It’s a valuable program that needs to be widely available. Many would benefit, may be hesitant to participate.”
- “The course was good and I may have a hope now of getting my license back.”
- “Good rapport, knowledge, inclusive and encouraged group to contribute. Group engagement was excellent.”
- “Have already recommended this course to many of our family and friends.”
- “I have spoken to friends about the course and they are very interested so I have given them contact numbers to ring.”
- “Much needed big help at 84 years.”
- “Excellent refresher.”
- “Thank you for organizing”
- “Have recommended it to other clubs”

#### **Conclusions:**

- Wiser Driver Courses cater to a wide age group ranging from 65-88 years of age. Participants’ experience was one of respect and inclusiveness. The course was relevant and informative and tailored appropriately to this cohort. There was no element of tokenism to the course and participants felt they had earned their Certificate of Completion.
- Given participants’ fears of having their licenses taken away from them, the course provided a safe space to ask questions, receive clarification, discuss problems and share experiences.
- Different aspects of the course resonated with different participants’ needs and experiences – therefore a wide range of topics from road rules review to pedestrian safety to motorised mobility scooters is valuable.
- The VicRoads Road to Solo Driving Handbook which each participant receives is an excellent resource and one that provides ongoing support and information to participants post-course.
- The tutor is key to the success of the course – a tutor who is relatable, of a similar age and extremely knowledgeable about the topic is able to develop rapport and gain the trust of participants.
- Of note is the final table which indicates that for all participants – the Wiser Driver Course is a catalyst for behavior change in terms of addressing current and future aspects of driving and safety on the roads.