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GEN Y snubs driving for smartphones and lap tops

RACV says new research has revealed a dramatic change in travel mode choices over the past decade, with a growing number of young people choosing not to get or to delay getting a driver's licence.

RACV commissioned the Centre for Automotive Research at the University of Adelaide to conduct a study which included analysing Victorian licencing data, an independent online survey of non-drivers aged 18-30 and a review of changing travel choices among young people in a number of countries including US, Canada, Sweden, Norway, UK and Germany.

Victorian licencing data reveals that in 2001, 52 per cent of 18 year olds in Victoria had a driver's licence compared with 40 per cent in 2014.

More than one-third of 18-24 year old Victorians did not have a drivers licence in 2014 and RACV Manager Road User Behaviour, Melinda Spiteri said there were several reasons for this.

"Of the 147 Australians surveyed on line, aged 18 to 30 most said they were unlicensed because of the perceived difficulty of the licensing process, the expense of owning and maintaining a vehicle or they were too busy.

"Some people simply said they did not like driving or preferred walking, cycling or using public transport. Of those who prefer public transport many said it allows them to use their smartphones and lap tops during their journey."

Ms Spiteri said this research identifying changing travel mode choices further supports RACV's position that both public and private transport modes have a vital role to play in planning for Victoria's future growth needs and liveability.

Ms Spiteri said identifying the community's changing travel mode choices also has implications for road and transport safety planning for the future.

"This research tells us is that if young people continue to be less car reliant; as a society we need to consider more safe and improved infrastructure not only for public transport users, but bike riders motorcyclists and those who prefer to walk, in view of their heightened vulnerability as road users."

Licensing rates (% of Victorian population)

	2001	2014
Age 18	52.50	39.93
Age 19	71.06	58.88
Age 20	77.73	66.56
Age 21	81.78	71.05
Age 22	85.00	71.20
Age 23	87.80	73.97
Age 24	89.93	76.66

Changing age-mix of Victorian drivers

Age of Drivers	2001	2014
18 – 30 year olds	24%	21%
31 – 50 year olds	43%	39%
51 – 90 year olds	33%	40%

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For the full report <http://bit.ly/1NdHX3Z>