

The Need

In 2024, **294** lives were lost on New Zealand roads, **62 (21%)** of those were aged **between 15-25 years**. To date in 2025 already 156 road fatalities have been recorded (<https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/safety-road-deaths/>). While much progress has been made in reducing road trauma, youth safety remains a priority, particularly in rural areas. New Zealand youth are consistently over-represented in road trauma statistics. Although they make up only 11% of all licence holders **MOT found youth aged 17-25 years are found to be primarily responsible for 86% of all fatal road crashes they are involved in throughout 2023** (<https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/safety-annual-statistics/young-drivers/>).

The Response

For every life lost, many more are seriously injured, often with life-lasting impacts. Tackling road trauma is a community challenge that needs a whole of community response. Ryda has been working with the community equipping novice drivers and their passengers from Dunedin with the skills, mindset and tools to make better decisions on the road since 2022. Road Safety Education Limited (RSE) is working to make sure the road to every young person's future is a safe one.

2006: First Ryda in Auckland

2025: 132,500 students nationwide



2022: First Ryda in Dunedin to 268 students - 2023 377 students - 2024 470 students

Ryda Dunedin at a glance:

Workshops held 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th May 2025

27
Volunteers



9
Facilitators

Including Police
Officer Eddie Smith



4 Workshops



8 Schools



727 Students



Schools included: *Queens High School, Kings High School, Columba College, Kaikorai Valley College, Otago Boys High School, John McGlashan College, Trinity Catholic College and Taieri College*

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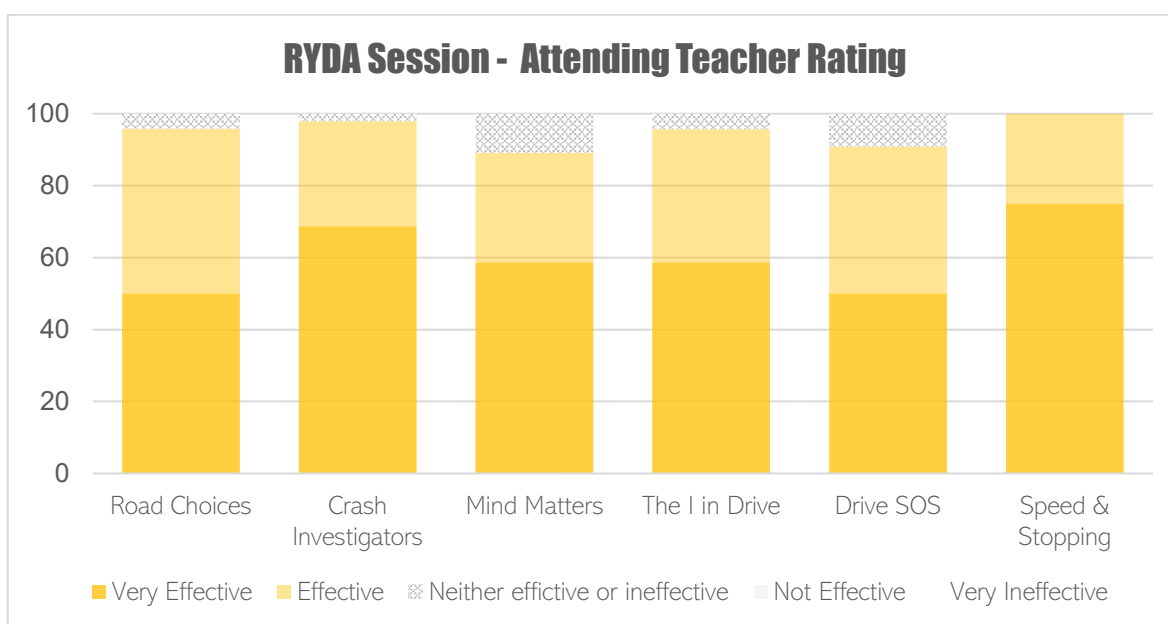
Feedback

RSE conducts regular and robust program evaluation designed to measure knowledge retention, attitude shift and intended and practiced behaviour change across time. As part of this evaluation we survey students and teachers.

Teachers – Post Workshop Surveys

The feedback received from Dunedin staff attending Ryda in 2025 showed that **100% of teachers found our programme “worthwhile”, including 64% who found it “very worthwhile”**. 100% of staff stated that RYDA workshop should be compulsory for senior high school students. 100% also experienced personal changes as a result of accompanying students to Ryda, all stating they “Increased knowledge about road safety” and “Developed road safety knowledge and skills to share with family and friends”.

We ask teachers to rate facilitator performance, session content and relevance from 1 to 5 (5 being very effective and 1 being not effective). **In 2025 Dunedin teachers who attended Ryda told us:**



Below are some notable comments by Dunedin teachers attending Ryda in 2025:

“Very well run thanks - good support from Rotary.”

“Passionate and engaging across the board!”

“Excellent and engaging presentations getting rangatahi involved.”

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"Every facilitator was fantastic. So much to take away."

"Excellent variety in activities, content and testimonials. Students were very impressed and realised how situations can quickly escalate."

"Thanks for hard work, program is valuable and worthwhile and exceptionally well delivered."

"Was very informative and well presented. There was a good buy in by the students."

Student – Post workshop surveys

After every programme we ask students to complete an anonymous online survey. We utilise the learning outcomes to help us evaluate and develop our programme and sessions, and to enable us to make the most impact on the youth we contact.

82% of Dunedin student respondents stated that they would "likely" apply the things they learn at the workshop when they are driving or being a passenger, 36% stated that they were "very likely".

Students were asked to indicate their **understanding of road safety issues** after attending Ryda compared to before. Below are the top three responses of **"much more aware"** from Dunedin 2025 students:

- The positive and negative influence passengers can have on young drivers
- How to predict and accommodate the special needs of different road users
- The Safe System and your role within it

Below are the top three responses of **"much more equipped and prepared"** from Dunedin 2025 students:

- Strengthen your personality risk areas using self-coaching methods
- Plan critical decisions ahead of time, eg. overtaking, orange lights, running late
- Increase / hone your own hazard perception skills

Students were also asked the **most valuable messages or strategies they pick up from Ryda**. Below are the top three responses from Dunedin 2025 students:

- increased understanding of the relationship between speed and stopping distance
- strategies to manage mind state / head space

- increased understanding of crash factors and their impact on the occurrence and severity of a crash

Students were asked which of the six workshop sessions impacted them the most and the reason for this decision. **The top three rated by students across New Zealand are highlighted with a black border, the top three rated by Dunedin students are highlighted yellow.** We've picked out a few entries from student feedback below:



<i>School:</i>	<i>Most impactful session:</i>	<i>Reason for choice:</i>
Taieri College	Crash Investigators	I enjoyed listening to their story and being able to try work out the cause of the crash. We learnt many key things to look at when looking at a crash site while also being reminded about important things like wearing your seat belts the whole drive
Kaikorai Valley College	Crash Investigators	Interesting to see the crash and talk to the survivor and learn what could happen in one wrong move
Trinity Catholic College	Crash Investigators	I liked it, because they brought in a survivor and it was a wake up call of the actual serious things that could happen to someone in a second
Taieri College	Mind Matters	It made me realise aspects about myself that I could change for the better to be safe on the road and off
Kaikorai Valley College	Mind Matters	I love how my group acted out the scenes and seeing how emotions effect drivers
Kings High School	Mind Matters	It was a fun game and it was interesting how distracted the driver got
Trinity Catholic College	Mind Matters	It involves some very fun and realistic activities, such as driving and having a conversation with a passenger with various mind states, and the important thing is to keep eyes on the road

Trinity Catholic College	Road Choices	<i>It gave us an insight into crash rates and the factors contributing to crashes - very impactful regarding driving on restricted licence and how those drivers are most at risk for crashes on roads. especially driving with people on restricted</i>
Queens High School	Road Choices	<i>I found the statistics he shared really interesting as they weren't necessarily what I expected. It was quite eye-opening to the actual potentiality of a crash on different licenses and with distractions in the car or not</i>
Taieri College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It clearly showed how speed affects stopping distance. Seeing the real life demonstration helped me understand how long it actually takes for a car to stop, especially in an emergency. It made me more aware of how important it is to slow down and keep a safe distance on the road. It was eye opening and felt very relevant to everyday driving</i>
Taieri College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It showed that speed can be very dangerous and you should always be aware of your surroundings</i>
Columba College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It showed you a visual representation of the effects of making bad decisions on the roads and not following speed limits that are sitting in place for a reason</i>
Columba College	Speed & Stopping	<i>I thought it made it super clear the dangers of going over a speed limit, even a little bit. it was quite confronting especially when the car hit the fake person</i>
Columba College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It taught me the real dangers of increasing your speed even just a little bit. I think this session is very important to see as it can teach you what to do in situations where you have to stop suddenly at speed</i>
Otago Boys High School	Speed & Stopping	<i>It was interesting to learn about the stopping rates of cars and how much further it has to break for, for only 10kph faster</i>
Otago Boys High School	Speed & Stopping	<i>I was really surprised at how far the car went even with the brakes fully braking. Especially how the stopping distance between 50 and 60 km was almost double the distance of the car stopping from 20km to 50km. It made me realise how important it is to be driving safely</i>
Otago Boys High School	Speed & Stopping	<i>It showed how important the brakes are in cars. As well as the speed that you are going during a certain time and the fact that 10km can make a huge difference while driving</i>

Queens High School	Speed & Stopping	<i>It demonstrated the impact of going only 10 over the speed limit and how dangerous it is</i>
Queens High School	Speed & Stopping	<i>It was interesting to see a real life visual representation of what speeds your are going and how long it takes you to stop. The instructor also gave us lots of useful information about what is a good safety rating and what to do if buying a car for the first time</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It gave me a much better understanding of why speed limits are what they are, and how only 10km over the 50km speed limit is so much more life-threatening</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It was really crazy to see how long the car needs to stop, and how a bit speeding changes everything</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It made me more aware of the stoping distance and ABS</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It showed us the severity of what can happen when you travel over the limit and help us create a better understanding of how long it actually takes for the vehicle to fully stop at a range of common speeds</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>It was very interesting and valuable to see how speeding up just a little causes such a dramatic increase of stopping distance</i>
Trinity Catholic College	Speed & Stopping	<i>Taught me about details of tyres and buying a 5 star rated car that has good safety features can keep me safe while driving</i>
Otago Boys High School	The I in Drive	<i>Interesting learning about the statistics and taking the personality test for risk, etc</i>
Queens High School	The I in Drive	<i>I really enjoyed taking the quizzes and I learned more about my risk levels in general and on the road</i>
Queens High School	The I in Drive	<i>Very interesting and I learned a lot about driving and things I need to keep in mind to keep not only me safe but others around me aswell</i>
Queens High School	The I in Drive	<i>Learnt more about myself and can improve this</i>

Images of Ryda workshops in Dunedin 2025:





Drive Coach Parent/Caregiver programme

Dunedin students were further supported through our complementary whanau programme, "Drive Coach". We developed this programme as research shows when whanau engage with their teens through the learn-to-drive journey this can have a significant impact on creating safer drivers who take less risks.

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40 parents/carers attended this event at the Cooke Howlison Toyota. This is the first year we are delivering this programme and we are hoping to improve our advertising strategies moving forward to ensure more engagement.

Parent comments received included:

"Thank you this has been fantastic"

"Thanks so much, I hope that this programme is offered to each school across New Zealand"

"Very informative, every day rules and risks"

"Very helpful, practical and informative, thank you"



Below is a table showing the breakdown of students and schools in the Dunedin region who participated in our Ryda workshop in 2025:

Schools attending:	Students:
Queens High School	80
Kings High School	135
Columba College	70
Kaikorai Valley College	42
Otago Boys High School	120
John McGlashin College	72
Trinity Catholic College	84
Taieri College	124
Total students:	727

- **Please note:** those students who were unable to attend the workshop are also positively impacted - through the use of our complementary classroom and online learning resources utilised by teaching staff

By attending our Ryda road safety programme over 727 young people from Dunedin have increased their understanding of road safety issues and been equipped with tools and strategies they need to choose behaviours that lead to safer outcomes on New Zealand roads.

Road Safety Education programmes benefit not only the students that attend the event but the lessons learned also benefit their families, friends, and the community as a whole.

This would not be possible without your support.

making our roads a safer place

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