

From: Geoffrey Harding
Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 11:51 AM
To: Committee, Road Safety (SEN)
Subject: Fwd: Letter re--'No penalty for passenger in drunk driver's vehicle.

Dear Road safety committee, I understand submissions closed on Jan 31, however the RACS (which has seen this letter) suggested I make a late submission. There is no doubt that a change to the law in regard to penalties for passengers in a vehicle driven by someone obviously under the influence, would in still fear in the passengers and provide strong incentive to dissuade the driver. Your lawyers will argue difficulty in obtaining a conviction, but the point is that no passenger wants to be charged because the drunken driver has caused a bad accident so out of fear and self-preservation will attempt to warn or prevent the driver risking the lives of others.

Have also forwarded the suggestion to the NSW state Govt.
(Unfortunately the SMH did not publish the letter. They concentrate more on reader amusement rather than radical solutions to extremely serious problems in our society!)
Regards, Dr. Geoff Harding

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Geoffrey Harding**
Date: Sun, 2 Feb 2020, 16:49
Subject: Letter re--'No penalty for passenger in drunk driver's vehicle.

Dear letters editor, this event is so horrific, I feel I must make some suggestion to hopefully reduce the incidence of such "accidents".

Appreciate probably too late for Monday, if so please consider for Tues.

Four children have died in Sydney under horrific circumstances, having been hit by a vehicle driven by someone three times over the limit. What is additionally distressing is that a male passenger was also in the vehicle. Arguably the passenger should have discouraged/prevented the car being driven by someone in this state of inebriation. According to present Australian laws the passenger will face no penalty. Something additional must be done to reduce the likelihood of such preventable accidents. I suggest that if a driver is clearly over the 0.05 limit, and is responsible for an accident, any passenger in the car should be subject to some penalty to encourage more responsible behaviour.