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“Stop yelling at me!” learner drivers say

Learner drivers have told the State’s peak motoring body they hated being yelled at and ridiculed while they learnt to drive prompting calls for instructors to be better behaved.

Data compiled as part of the Club’s Driver IQ program showed more than 80 percent of participants considered yelling was the worst thing supervisors did while instructing them.

RACQ spokesperson Clare Hunter said it was important parents kept their cool, if they chose to get some supervising in during these school holidays.

“Being yelled at isn’t the only behaviour upsetting new drivers. More than 50 percent of participants told us they didn’t like it when the instructor laughed at them,” Ms Hunter said.

“What’s really worrying to us is more than 65 percent of these learners said they were bothered by their driving supervisor being on their phone.

“Driving instructors and parents helping learners need to remember they are role models for impressionable motorists – so, if you’re teaching a young person how to be a safe driver, you shouldn’t be distracted by your mobile phone.”

Ms Hunter reminded instructors and new drivers learning to be competent behind the wheel was not just about ticking off a requirement but gaining experience in a range of situations and conditions.

“We know that learning to drive can be a nerve-wracking experience for all involved, so it’s important that when you’re going out for a lesson that everyone – including the instructor – is in the right headspace,” she said.

“Make sure, before you both set out for a drive, that neither of you are tired, hungry, angry or distracted and learn to recognise when it is time to end the lesson.

“If you’re planning on using a road trip these school holidays to clock up some quality hours behind the wheel, make sure you’re taking the appropriate breaks.”

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Clare Hunter 0427 261 932; Media Advisor Emma Williams 0447 718 864.

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.