LEADING MOTORCYCLE TRAINING ORGANISATION URGES DRIVER CAUTION WITH AN EXPECTED POST-COVID SPIKE IN MOTORBIKES ON NSW ROADS

Stay Upright has seen a greater than 20% increase in learner training demand since May 1 this year; With COVID-19 restrictions further easing across the state, Stay Upright expects to see more motorcycle riders on the road and for traffic to increase as p

Sydney, Australia, July 6, 2020 – One of Australia’s leading motorcycle training providers has seen a surprising increase in rider training demand in New South Wales during COVID-19, and is asking everyone to expect an increase in the number of learner riders on the roads – particularly with many people set to drive back to work in line with the easing of restrictions across NSW.

Stay Upright is a motorcycle rider training provider, operating in six Australian states. Founded in 1981, it is Australia’s first training provider and operates official licensing training in four states, advanced training in six states, and trains more than 45,000 riders annually across the country.

The organisation has seen a more than 20 per cent increase from the same period last year, particularly in NSW, with most of that increase coming since May 1, when in-person training resumed following closures across the state due to COVID-19.

Annaliesse Cawood, General Manager of Stay Upright, believes the spike has potentially been fuelled by the pandemic as people look to reduce expenses by downsizing to two-wheeler vehicles, given they are cheaper to purchase and operate than cars. They also offer more flexibility in terms of mobility and extra potential income generation.

“In NSW, the State Government supports motorcycle riding by subsidising learner licencing. Therefore, the initial L-plate training sessions are relatively inexpensive ($96 in NSW), and many people have looked at getting a motorbike licence now as they suddenly have the time to do it,” Cawood said.

“Unlike four-wheel vehicles, riders on their L-Plates are free to ride on public roads by themselves immediately following the awarding of their learner license,” Cawood said. “New, inexperienced riders are particularly vulnerable. Car and truck drivers need to be aware of blind spots with more people expected to ride and drive back to work rather than catching public transport.”

Stay Upright says there are several precautions road users should look to adopt from today:

Drivers need to remember to check their blind spots – motorcycle riders are trained to avoid driver blind spots, but it helps if drivers are also looking out for them. Riders are trained on the use of proper protective clothing, and Stay Upright urges all riders to check that their clothing is recommended by the Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program (MotoCAP) website www.motocap.com.au. The program was established by a consortium of government and private organisations across Australia and New Zealand and is free to use. Stay Upright urges riders to continue their training, if not with a training organisation then at least in isolation. “Places such as empty car parks are a great way to gain experience with the basics of what they've learned in their initial training,” Cawood said. “Riders are responsible for their ongoing training and experience building. Regular riding is critical to riders becoming more comfortable on the road.”

“However, the biggest precaution road users can take at this time is increasing their awareness,” Cawood said. “We have become accustomed to emptier-than-usual roads, but this quickly going to change, and road users need to readjust their awareness to pre-pandemic levels.”

ABOUT STAY UPRIGHT

Stay Upright is Australia’s first and largest motorcycle rider training and safety company. Founded in 1981 by Warwick Schuberg, the ex-Head of the NSW Police Rider Training Unit, the organisation was the first to offer rider training to the Australian public.

The company was founded in 1981 to help motorcycle riding become a safer activity. It was founded to deliver improved safety standards via excellent customer service. These two foundations of safety and customer service remain the guiding principles of the company today.

Stay Upright is an official registered training organisation which works with governmental motoring and licensing authorities in each state and territory to ensure riders are provided with the best safety guidance and training for new and experienced riders, both during the licensing process and beyond.

For more information, visit www.stayupright.com.au.
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