



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

15 July 2015

The Hon Peter Glen Chandler MLA  
Parliament House  
Darwin, NT 0800

Via Email: [Minister.chandler@nt.gov.au](mailto:Minister.chandler@nt.gov.au)  
CC: [Minister.Elferink@nt.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Elferink@nt.gov.au)

Dear Minister Chandler

Thank you for meeting with our three Colleges – The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine – on Thursday 25 June, regarding the Open Speed Limit Trial in the Northern Territory.

We appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important community health and safety issue that affects local Central Australian communities, and all road users in the NT. As discussed at the meeting, our Colleges believe road safety is a package. We believe a vital element of that package is missing, and NT driver safety is being compromised by the concept of roads without speed limits.

Given the constructive nature of our discussion, we were surprised by recent media reports suggesting that an expansion of the trial is under consideration. If accurate, we implore you to reconsider this position as such a move would only serve to further undermine the government's commitment to the National Road Safety Strategy. We request that you rule out an expansion as a policy option, particularly while there remains a lack of publically available information about the current trial.

The three Colleges look forward to working with the NT Government to ensure the best possible road safety measures are in place for the Northern Territory. As agreed in the meeting, we look forward to receiving:

- A summary of the Trial's evaluation report; and
- The new NT Road Safety Strategy.

In terms of the implementation of a road training program for young drivers, to equip them with emergency response, we request to see the available evidence on its effectiveness in reducing road traffic collisions, injuries and deaths.

The three Colleges continue to call for the ending of the Open Speed Limit Trial and would ask that the Trial's evaluation be released publicly, as soon as possible, for the community to be fully informed.

Once again, we thank you for providing the time to meet with us. For further information or queries please contact Paul Wright, Senior Policy Officer, on +61 2 9256 5497 or at [paul.wright@racp.edu.au](mailto:paul.wright@racp.edu.au)

Yours sincerely

Dr Christine Connors  
Chair, NT Committee  
Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Mr David Read  
NT Fellow  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Dr Stephen Gourley  
Chair, NT Faculty  
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine