

MEDIA RELEASE
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Australian youth admit 'petrol pinch' is forcing them to change habits

Half of Australian youth (50 per cent) say petrol prices influence how often they use their car, according to a recent youth survey conducted by Just Car Insurance.

"With petrol prices soaring as high at \$1.40 a litre during the last couple of weeks, it's no surprise that half of young people are starting to consider alternatives to driving," said Andrew O'Hara, National Manager of Just Car Insurance.

"Young people rely on their car to get to study, part-time work which can be at irregular times, as well as sporting and social activities – this is magnified for young people in country areas who don't have access to public transport like those in metropolitan areas.

"While the inflated cost of petrol is affecting all drivers, those with lower incomes, such as youth on starter salaries, are feeling it more than ever," said Mr O'Hara.

Of those young people earning \$10,000-\$45,000 per annum, 49 per cent rated petrol prices as an influence on their driving habits and 54 per cent said they are concerned about their financial situation.

"Knowing that half of young people surveyed say petrol prices influence their driving habits, and half are also concerned about their financial situation, it stands to reason that fuel economy is an important consideration for them," adds Mr O'Hara.

"Petrol prices are undoubtedly influencing the affordability of car travel and anecdotally, we know that some of our policy cancellations are due to the overall costs of running a car, of which petrol is a significant contributor," he said.

"However, many young drivers are paying an increased premium with their insurance company when they could be getting a better deal. Previous research** has found that the average difference in price between the lowest and highest quotation for premiums was as high as 43 per cent – we suggest people get at least three quotes before making a decision about their car insurance. In order to find out how much they could potentially save, we recommend young drivers to log onto the Just Car website and apply for a quote (www.justcarinsurance.com.au)."

Just Car Insurance specialises in insurance for young drivers and drivers being insured for the first time. Just Car Insurance is underwritten by AAMI, one of Australia's leading car and home insurance companies.

For further information, images or interviews please contact:

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* National survey of 1053 18-25 year olds conducted on behalf of Just Car Insurance by independent third-party, *amr interactive*

** Independent study by JP Morgan Asia Pacific Equity Research 'Motor Insurance Industry Patterns in Pricing' report.