

RAA Member Panel

Autonomous Cars

The Project

Vehicle technology is changing rapidly, with South Australia the first state in Australia to legalise controlled road trials of autonomous vehicles.

RAA was approached by the University of South Australia to find out what our members think about acceptance and training for level three (3) and four (4) autonomous vehicles.

A level 3 vehicle has systems which stop the car from moving into hazardous situations, therefore enabling safer journeys.

A level 4 autonomous vehicle is directed by an automated driving system with all aspects of dynamic driving and can inform the driver to intervene in unexpected circumstances.

We acknowledge throughout the survey that the terminology 'driverless' and 'autonomous' vehicles was used interchangeably.

The Results

Do you know what an autonomous vehicle is?

Ninety five per cent of respondents, across all age groups, said they know what an autonomous vehicle is¹. This remains unchanged from 2016, when 95 per cent of members had heard of autonomous or self-driving vehicles.

Would you feel safe travelling in a driverless car?

Nearly 40 per cent of RAA Member Panel respondents said they would feel safe travelling in a driverless car. In 2014, when RAA asked members the same question, less than 25 per cent of respondents indicated that they would feel safe as a passenger in a car that drives itself.

People aged between 56 and 85 years of age are more likely to feel safe (42%) than 18 to 55 year olds (37%).

Do you believe users of level 4 autonomous vehicles should be required by law (legislation) to hold a special licence?

Level 4 autonomous vehicles will be designed to inform the driver when to intervene in unexpected circumstances, meaning the driver may be required at times to take control of the vehicle.

Eighty per cent of respondents believe users of level 4 autonomous vehicles should be required by law to hold a special licence. People aged between 36 and 70 are more likely to believe that you don't need to legislate a special licence.

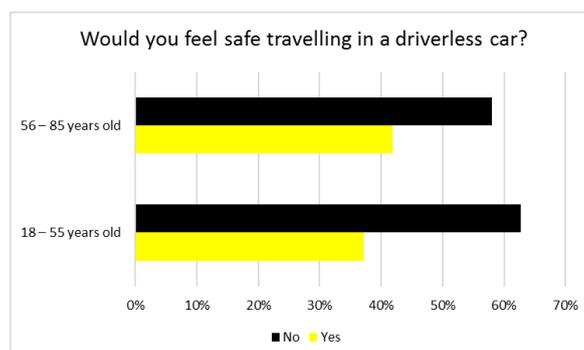
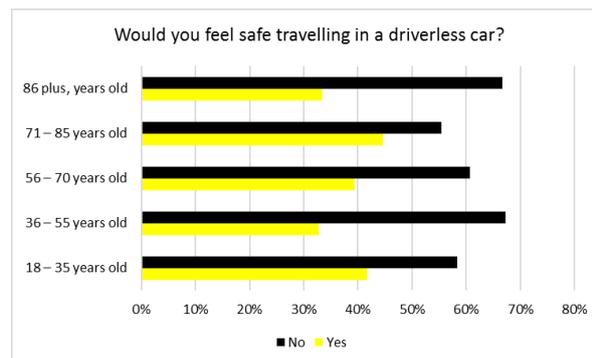
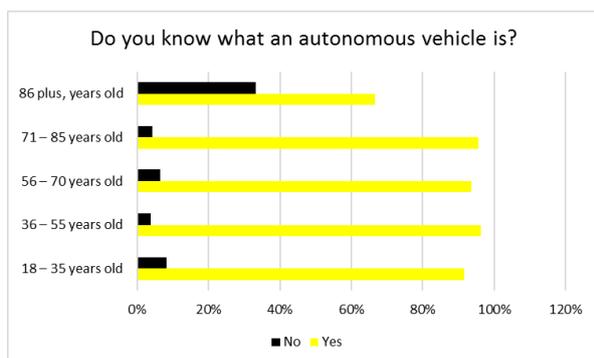
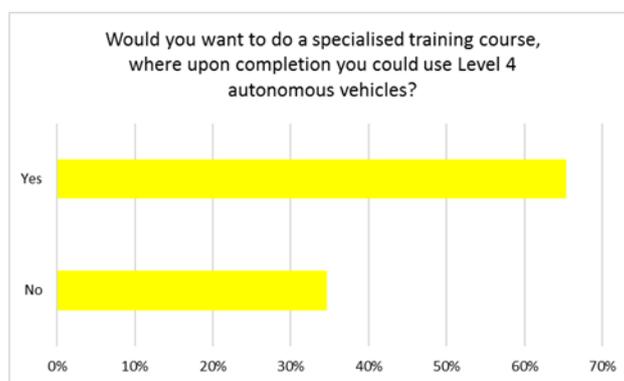
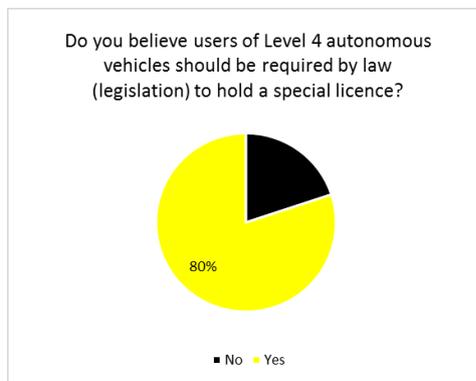
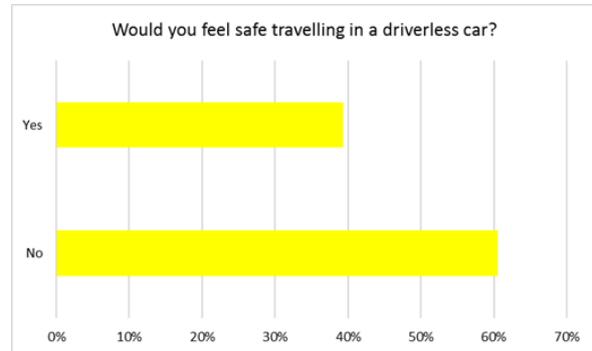
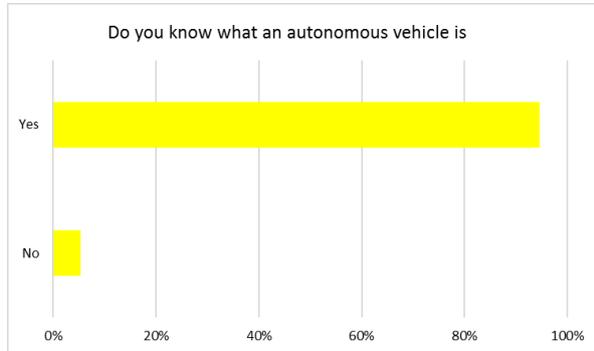
Would you want to do a specialised training course, where upon completion you could use level 4 autonomous vehicles?

Nearly two thirds of RAA Member Panel respondents would want specialised training to achieve a level of competency for level 4 autonomous vehicle use. The younger cohort were more inclined to

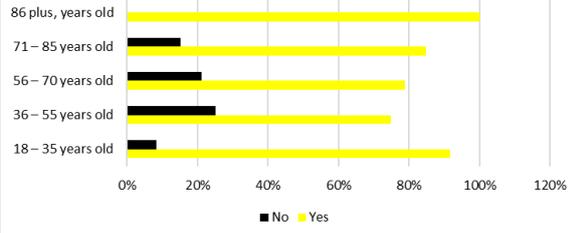
¹ The percentage of 86 plus year olds must be used with caution due to low sample size.

support training (83%) with 36 to 55 year olds slightly less likely (64%) than any other age group (65-67% for people aged 56-86 and older).

Members commented that full autonomy would benefit people who may currently have limited access to transport options.



Do you believe users of Level 4 autonomous vehicles should be required by law (legislation) to hold a special licence?



Would you want to do a specialised training course, where upon completion you could use Level 4 autonomous vehicles?

