|  |
| --- |
| Reflections on the case study approach in road safety education for young adult road users. |
| **Setting/problem**  Globally, road crashes are the leading cause of death among young people, a critical health issue now recognized nationally and internationally. Targeted road safety education plays a key role in efforts to reduce road crashes.  Fit to Drive (F2D) (Victoria) and Keeping Safe (New South Wales)are senior schools based programs using trained university undergraduates as road safety education facilitators and ambassadors to empower young people to be safer road users.  **Intervention**  A key learning strategy in the peer-led workshop approach is the analysis of a case study of an actual crash involving several young fatalities. The case study reinforces the reality of road risks, and alerts students to their susceptibility to road crashes. After participating in the case study activity they rehearse what to say in dangerous situations and develop a personal road safety plan and pledge. The young people develop positive strategies to answer the question posed in this case study. “Was there a safer way home?”  **Outcomes**  The case study enables young people to learn about and analyse the causes and consequences of car crashes and the way they impact on entire communities. Building on a previous study (Montero & Kelly 2016) we will explore how the case study draws upon features of story and theatre, emotion, the evocation of humour and pathos, and physical engagement and movement, to construct meaning, to shape values and to engage young people in the problem of road trauma. Importantly, it provides the opportunity to apply analytical, problem – solving and personal skills. Students examine the evidence, identify potentially unsafe situations and develop and act on solutions.  **Implications**  The road crash case study offers an effective means of assisting young people to consider their risky and unsafe travel behaviours as a passenger and as a driver. Their analysis of the case study allows them to develop strategies they can use to avoid and get out of unsafe travel situations.  This paper will review and discuss the case study and its potential for the creation of positive road safety outcomes. It will consider the approach in the context of road safety best practice, the perspectives of the stakeholders, and include a consideration of some of the dilemmas and limitations. The paper will present some guidelines for the development of effective and appropriate case studies in road safety education and health promotion practice.  **Preferred presentation format**  Oral |