



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tasmanian motorists reminded to take extra care as school returns

RACT is reminding motorists to take extra care this week, with tens of thousands of students back on the roads as schools return across the state.

RACT's Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said busier roads on the first few weeks of the school year increased the potential for traffic delays and crashes.

"Time pressures, such as being late for the first day of school can contribute to bad decisions being made on the road," Ms Pennicott said.

"To avoid getting frustrated behind the wheel, we suggest everyone allows an extra few minutes for travel over the next few weeks, whether they are dropping children off at school or just driving to work.

Ms Pennicott said it was also important road users observed the 40km/h zones around schools which will be enforced again from today.

"As an extra reminder to help drivers remember to obey the school zones, the RACT Mobile Service Centre will be driving through school zones this week with signs urging drivers to slow down to 40km/h," she said.

"It's always important to slow down near schools, but regardless of the limit, children are vulnerable road users and we all need to remember that over the next few weeks.

"According to data from our online RACT RoadSafe program for Grade 3 and 4 school children, two out of five students have a low understanding of how to cross roads safely.

"The RACT works hard in schools to increase road safety, but the only way to ensure these children are safe around roads is for drivers to do their bit."

Ms Pennicott also said the return to school was the ideal time for parents of younger children to check their car seats and child restraints were properly installed and suitable for the child.

“Just like daylight savings is a reminder for many to change smoke-alarm batteries, returning to school should also be a reminder to ensure your seats and restraints will keep your children safe,” she said.