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Take care on the roads in back to school traffic

RACT is reminding drivers to take an extra level of care on the roads as children across Tasmania return to school for Term 3 tomorrow.

RACT Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said it was important people remembered there would be more cars on the road before leaving home for work or school drop-off.

“While the return of school always sees an increase of cars on the road, now people are also beginning to return to offices after COVID-19, the difference in traffic levels is likely to be even more noticeable,” Ms Pennicott said.

“We know more cars on the road leads to more chances for accidents, so we’re reminding people to stay vigilant and plan a little extra time for their journey to ensure they arrive safely at their destination.”

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

“It’s always important to slow down near schools, but regardless of the limit, children are vulnerable road users and speed should be lowered wherever they are present,” she said.

“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 slow down.”

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.

“RACT polling suggests that only one in three parents have ever sought professional advice relating to car restraints for their children, despite approximately 80 per cent of restraints requiring attention,” she said.

“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 children are properly and safely restrained.”