

## Media release Wednesday, 19 May 2021

### RACT staff put through their paces in driving course

Senior RACT staff have proven that despite having many years of driving experience, no drivers are immune from the dangers of drink driving and mobile phone use.

RACT's Senior Leadership Team were today put through their paces during a simulated driving course at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre.

Alongside RACT driver trainers in a controlled environment, our staff had to navigate a course while texting and again while wearing "beer goggles" to mirror the effect of drink driving.

"Despite their almost 200 years of combined driving experience, our senior staff showed why drink driving and distraction contribute to nearly half of all fatal and serious injury crashes in Tasmania each year," RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said.

"This exercise goes a long way to educating the Tasmanian community about the dangers of drink driving and using your mobile phone when behind the wheel.

"If you check your phone for two seconds while travelling at 100km/h, you'll have travelled 55 metres. That's longer than an Olympic-sized swimming pool, which is why we must leave our phones in our pockets, in the glovebox or even the boot when driving.

"Additionally, driving drunk or affected by drugs can impair vision, concentration, reaction time and motor skills, which increases crash risk. If you're drinking, make sure you find another way home."

RACT Chief Executive Officer Mark Mugnaioni took part in the driving course and said it was a great learning curve for him and other senior leaders.

"This exercise has not only been a very important eye opener for our staff, but it also serves as a warning for other drivers of the dangers caused by mobile phone use and drink driving," Mr Mugnaioni said.

"We may have had around 200 years of combined driving experience, but today's efforts show that we were no match for the dangers of these driving behaviours."