

Media release Friday, 21 May 2021

RACT brings the road safety message to students

The importance of teaching our young and vulnerable road users about road safety has been showcased by RACT as part of National Road Safety Week.

RACT has today presented RoadSafe, an online road safety resource for grade three and four students at St Aloysius Catholic College.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said the resource was a valuable way to explore road safety with young children, who are some of our most vulnerable road users.

“Since 2017, RoadSafe has taught children at an early age about the importance of being safe inside a vehicle and on the road when walking or riding their bike,” he said.

“This includes not being a distracting passenger, exiting vehicles safely, wearing of seatbelts and helmets, reading and obeying road signs, giving way to pedestrians and crossing the road safely.

“It’s really important to be sharing these crucial messages with the next generation, particularly during National Road Safety Week.”

Mr Bailey said the RoadSafe was used in classrooms, either for individuals to use on their own and for group-based learning.

“Teachers will be able to access a separate dashboard that provides an overview of the class’ progress, identifying knowledge gaps on important road safety issues that may require further attention,” he said.

“For instance, we know that almost 60% of students who took part in RoadSafe last year didn’t know how to share the road and footpath with other road users when riding their bike. Additionally, 55% didn’t know how to safely get in and out of cars.”

“This highlights the importance of teaching students about road safety early. We can also use this data to improve our educational messages based on the students’ knowledge.”

St Aloysius Junior Campus Deputy Principal Susan McGann said it was vital to teach students about road safety from a young age and welcomed RACT’s visit during National Road Safety Week.

“We want our students to be safe, aware and to pay attention when walking near roads, when riding in cars or using their bikes and scooters. It’s never too early to build awareness about safety,” she said.

“Our junior campus sits near a busy road and many students walk to and from school as well as using nearby Boronia Beach for local excursions. Students are encouraged to follow and share the messages of paying attention, slowing down and taking time to cross roads with care.”

St Aloysius student Ava Oakley said she learnt a lot about road safety from RACT.

“I learnt how to ride my bike safely by riding with a helmet, watching out for cars and riding on the left,” she said.

“I also learnt how to cross the road safely, making sure I use my seatbelt correctly and all the different street signs.”

RACT runs its RoadSafe program for grades 3 and 4 across Tasmania. Interested schools can book via the RACT website: www.ract.com.au/community/community-education/roadsafe-registration