



MEDIA RELEASE

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Shining a light on road safety this week after a horror year on our roads

This year's Road Safety Week (15-22 November) should serve as a wake-up call to Tasmanians after a horror year on our roads.

RACT Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said this year's statistics were damning and more needs to be done to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

"So far this year 32 people have died on our roads. That's compared to 26 deaths at the same time last year," Ms Pennicott said.

"In addition to that, there have been 226 serious injuries this year, compared to 210 at the same time last year.

"These stats are a wakeup call. With our borders shut for a number of months and less people on our roads, you would hope the number of serious injuries and fatalities would have reduced compared to last year rather than dramatically increase. It shows that we have a significant problem with road safety and more needs to be done.

"As a community, we need to change our attitude to road safety. While the Government has an important part to play it really is up to everyone who gets behind the wheel to play their part.

"With the holiday season approaching, we need to have a clear focus on making sure no one dies on our roads over the Christmas-New Year period.

"We are urging all Tasmanians to avoid the fatal five - speed, not wearing seat belts, alcohol and drugs, distraction and fatigue."

Road Safety Week is the initiative of Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH). SARAH is a not-for-profit incorporated association founded by Peter Frazer after the death of his 23-year-old daughter, Sarah, on the Hume Highway in February 2012.

From 15-22 November, RACT will be running a series of school activities, holding press conferences and sharing valuable information on social media with the public.

"This is all in the name of educating Tasmanians about the importance of being a safe driver, obeying the road rules and sharing the road with others," Ms Pennicott said.