

## **RACT POLICY**

# **13 : RESTRAINTS**

### **13.1 SEAT BELTS**

- a) Seat belts complying with the relevant Australian Standard should be worn at all times, unless a person is exempt for medical reasons.
- b) Drivers have a responsibility to ensure seat belts are maintained in good condition.
- c) Drivers are also legally responsible for ensuring all passengers are appropriately restrained in a seatbelt or approved child restraint where seat belts are fitted.

### **13.2 CHILD RESTRAINTS**

- a) RACT believes infant and young passengers should be viewed as a vulnerable road user group and should be afforded the highest level of safety when travelling in motor vehicles.
- b) RACT strongly supports compliance with, and enforcement of, the Australian Road Rule that all children under seven years of age must wear an approved child restraint that is properly fastened and adjusted. The type of restraint is dependent on the age of the child.
- c) State and Federal government road safety strategies should implement specific campaigns about child restraint use aimed at reducing serious casualty crash risk involving unrestrained infants and young children.

### **13.3 SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES**

- a) If seat belts are fitted in any vehicle, including school buses, they must be worn in order to reduce the severity of injury in the event of a crash.
- b) The RACT supports the Tasmanian Government's requirement that all new contracted buses under 25 seats be seat belt equipped.
- c) RACT supports phasing-in of seat belts in all new school buses in Tasmania.
- d) RACT supports an education/awareness campaign to encourage children to wear seatbelts at all times, where fitted, on school buses.

### **13.4 EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS**

- a) Increased use of vehicle occupant restraints should be encouraged through integrated public education and enforcement campaigns with an emphasis on increasing compliance with road rules regarding adult rear seat occupants and child restraints.

### **13.5 COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVE SAFETY TECHNOLOGY**

- a) RACT considers seat belt warning devices and seat belt pre-tensioners should be standard features in all new vehicles to improve compliance with restraint regulations and reduce risk.

### **13.6 RESTRAINT RESEARCH**

- a) There should be ongoing research and development to improve:
  - (i) safety, ease of use and comfort of seat belts and child restraints; and
  - (ii) compatibility between wearers, restraints and vehicles.

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**RACT Board Endorsed December 2013**