

# ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2013-2016



## YOUNG ROAD USERS

As a community we have a responsibility to protect and educate our children and young people so that they develop the diverse skills required to become safe and responsible road users. This is a developmental process with learning and personal responsibility across their schooling years.

On average, four children aged between 0 and 15 years are killed and a further 47 are seriously injured on South Australian roads each year; 62% of them are passengers and 21% are pedestrians. A child that is properly secured in an approved child restraint is less likely to be injured or killed in a car crash than one who is not. Housing and neighbourhood designs in Australia have brought vehicles into the home environment, school grounds and other places frequented by children, creating increased risks for young pedestrians.

In addition, young drivers are over represented in crashes. Young people aged 16 to 19 make up 5% of the population but in 2008-2012 accounted for 12% of fatalities and 14% of serious injuries in South Australia. On average 29% of deaths of people between 15 and 24 are attributed to road crashes.

It is generally acknowledged that age and inexperience are important factors in young driver crashes. Younger drivers have a significantly higher risk of death relative to the number of kilometres they drive, compared to other driver age groups. Young drivers are at a high risk of crashing and often have a high exposure at higher risk times of day. Research also shows that young people tend to buy older cars and vehicle safety is not a priority when buying their first car. The combination of these factors results in young drivers accounting for a significant proportion of the total South Australian road toll.

The South Australian Road Safety Action Plan 2013-2016, developed in consultation with the Road Safety Stakeholder Reference Group, has identified the following priority actions to address road safety issues confronting young road users.

### Key actions:

#### Creating safer communities and neighbourhoods

- > Create safer neighbourhoods and pedestrian friendly streets with lower vehicle travel speeds. Implement the online 'Living Neighbourhoods' resource and develop tools for local government to implement concepts from the 'Streets for People' Compendium. (DPTI, LG, Urban Renewal Authority, Heart Foundation)

#### Improving the licensing system

- > Introduce licensing reforms to make licensing changes to further protect novice drivers (DPTI). These include:
  - Passenger restrictions for P1 drivers (with exemptions)
  - A night-time driving restriction for P1 drivers (with exemptions)
  - Extending the total minimum provisional licence period from two to three years
  - Removing regression to a previous licence stage following a disqualification period.



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## Better informed communities

- > Following the assessment of road safety education programs against best practice, provide information to schools so that decisions about road safety curriculum can be based on sound information. (DPTI, DECD, MAC)
- > Work collaboratively with providers to map road safety education programs (0-18 years) against curriculum frameworks and best practice so that there is improved coordination in program development and delivery. (DPTI lead agency in conjunction with SAPOL, MFS, RAA and others as appropriate)
- > Increase the number of schools actively participating in the Way2Go program by 50% from 100 to 150. (DPTI)
- > Implement best practice early childhood road safety education in kindergartens and child care centres through the provision of online programs with supportive teaching resources. (DPTI)
- > Promote a 'My First Car Safety Checklist' and a 'Nearly New Safer Vehicles Price Comparison List' to inform vehicle buyers. (DPTI)
- > Raise awareness about the dangers to children of vehicles moving in driveways. (DPTI)
- > Continue to deliver child restraints and promote their use to all communities in the APY Lands along with information and training about correct installation. (DPTI, Australian Red Cross)
- > Establish the South Australia Police Road Safety Centre as a well-recognised venue for the delivery of road safety education and information to the South Australian community. (SAPOL)

