

# News Release **Minister Michael O'Brien**

Minister for Finance  
Minister for Police  
Minister for Correctional Services  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Road Safety

Thursday, 14 August 2013

## New action plan to drive down the road toll

The State Government has released a new three-year action plan to help save lives on South Australian roads and encourage all road users to work together to reduce the road toll.

Road Safety Minister Michael O'Brien said the road safety priorities and actions outlined in the *Road Safety Action Plan 2013-2016* will take further steps towards reducing road trauma.

"The action plan forms part of the South Australia's *Road Safety Strategy 2020 – Towards Zero Together* which aims to reduce our annual road toll to less than 80 fatalities and 800 serious injuries by 2020 by having all road users and the community work together," Mr O'Brien said.

"Achievements from the previous action plan helped produce the State's lowest road toll on record with 94 fatalities and 761 serious injuries in 2012.

"But more work needs to be done, as a single life lost on our roads is one too many."

The new action plan highlights 65 actions to be undertaken over the next three years which fall under six key focus areas including:

- Investing in safer roads
- Creating safer communities and neighbourhoods
- Encouraging safer behaviours
- Continuously improving the licensing system
- Using new technologies
- Creating better informed communities

Mr O'Brien said the State Government was already taking steps to address some of the 65 actions.

"We are improving the safety of South Australian roads with projects such as the \$3.2 million upgrade to the Britannia Roundabout while we have proposed changes to the Graduated Licensing Scheme for novice drivers, including passenger and night-time driving restrictions," he said.

"We have also increased our emphasis on enforcing mobile phone driving offences with SAPOL's Operation Distraction."

Mr O'Brien said another priority was to further establish the new \$3.5 million Road Safety Centre at Thebarton as a high-quality venue for delivering road safety education to young South Australians.

"More than 500,000 children aged four to 13 have visited the Road Safety Centre over the last 50 years and thousands more will pass through this new centre," he said.

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“In five to ten years time these children will be our State’s young drivers and it is important that they start their learning about road safety at an early age.”

Mr O’Brien said the action plan has a strong focus on road safety education and includes an action to map all the road safety education programs for all ages from birth through to age 18.

“This will involve working collaboratively with road safety education stakeholders such as the RAA, MFS, SAPOL and other providers to identify all the programs available and determine how they can be best delivered to young South Australians,” he said.

In addition, the popular Way2Go primary school program that involves classroom road safety teaching and educates students about safe ways to travel to school will be increased from the current 100 schools involved to 150 schools across the State by 2016.

The development of the *Road Safety Action Plan 2013-2016* has been led by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) in collaboration with SAPOL, the Motor Accident Commission, RAA, Local Government Association and the Centre for Automotive Safety Research, University of Adelaide.

The Road Safety Reference Group comprising 42 organisations has also played a key role in developing the actions.

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