



**UN DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY (2011-2020) - 1ST ANNIVERSARY FORUM: CANBERRA**

FRIDAY, 11 MAY 2012

**ACRS SUMMARY FROM THE DAY**

Friday, 11 May 2012, marked the first anniversary of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. This Canberra-based anniversary event, jointly organised by ACRS and the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB), brought together key agencies and individuals who are making a difference to road safety in the international, national and local spheres, with a particular emphasis on relating achievements throughout the first year of the Decade of Action & Australia's National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS).

Speakers included the Hon. Catherine King, Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport and Dr Soames Job, Executive Director of the National Road Safety Council. The [Agenda](#) for the day can be viewed here.

Catherine King provided an update on our national and global position in relation to the Decade of Action and the NRSS. An excerpt is as follows:

*I would also like to acknowledge and thank Gerald Waldron, ARRB Group Managing Director, and Lauchlan McIntosh, President of the Australasian College of Road Safety, who are hosting this morning's forum.*

*I would also like to thank the NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust, AAA and ANCAP for their support.*

*... In my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport, I have particular responsibility for promoting and implementing the Australian Government's road safety initiatives.*

*This is a task to which I am strongly committed. Your attendance here this morning is proof that you share my commitment.*

.....

*In the last 10 years annual fatalities on Australian roads have fallen by almost 26 per cent. And last year Australia recorded its lowest number of road fatalities since 1946 (1,291 road deaths).*

*Today I have also released the latest road death report that shows during the 12 months ending April 2012, a total of 1,287 people died in road crashes. Compared to the corresponding period one year earlier, the current total is 3.1 per cent lower*

.....

*The Decade of Action initiative—of which the Australia Government was a co-sponsor—recognises the immense scale of the world-wide road trauma problem and the critical need to reverse the spiralling trend in road deaths and injuries.*

*It is difficult to comprehend that each year, worldwide, approximately 1.3 million people die due to road crashes and up to 50 million people suffer non-fatal injuries.*

*As a nation with a record of achievement in improving road safety, Australia has both the capacity, and responsibility, to assist in reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on the world's roads.*

*In recognition of our shared global responsibility, the Australian Government is providing \$6.2 million to the World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility.*



The Global Road Safety Facility funds are allocated across a range of activities.

Catherine King also mentioned that although the annual death rate is decreasing (and has decreased by just over 3% in 2011), the trend in serious injury has been increasing. This is reflected in research by the [Research centre for Injury Studies \(Flinders University\)](#) and [AIHW report: Trends in serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 200-01 to 2007-08](#).

**Table 2.1: Persons seriously injured due to road vehicle traffic crashes by indicator, Australia, 2000-01 to 2007-08**

Indicator	Year <sup>(a)</sup>							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Deaths <sup>(b)</sup>	1,761	1,751	1,677	1,595	1,577	1,649	1,598	1,489
Rate <sup>(c)</sup>	9.2	9.0	8.5	7.9	7.7	8.0	7.6	7.0
Seriously injured	26,694	28,440	27,526	28,782	29,850	31,204	32,777	32,543
Rate <sup>(c)</sup>	138.4	145.6	139.3	144.0	147.4	152.1	157.2	153.4
Seriously injured with high threat-to-life	7,479	7,782	7,474	7,871	8,365	8,750	9,239	9,157
Rate <sup>(c)</sup>	38.8	39.8	37.7	39.2	41.0	42.3	43.9	42.7

(a) Indicates year of crash for deaths and year of hospitalisation for seriously injured persons.

(b) Deaths data supplied by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE).

(c) Rates are per 100,000 population, adjusted by direct standardisation to the Australian population in June 2001.

For more detailed information on trends in fatal injury due to road traffic crashes refer to Appendix 2.

As it is vitally important that we are able to assess our achievements against the death and injury criteria detailed under our NRSS over the 2011-2020 period, Catherine King’s speech outlined the new **National Road Crash Database** currently in development by the Bureau of Infrastructure Transport & Regional Economics (BITRE) as follows:

*As part of the National Road Safety Strategy, Transport Ministers agreed to establish a new national road crash database.*

*BITRE is currently in the process of establishing a new national road crash database to support performance monitoring requirements under the NRSS.*

*A functional database has been created with available data for the strategy baseline period (2008-2010) and is being further developed in cooperation with state and territory agencies.*

*This status report includes provisional baseline fatality data for many of the performance indicators, and some provisional fatality data for 2011.*

*Indicators based on serious injury crash data will be included in future status reports, once an adequate source of national serious injury data is established.*

***A more complete set of data for the 2011 calendar year will be available in the second half of 2012.***

We look forward to receiving the updated road trauma data from this new database in the latter part of this year and will keep you informed when it is released.



**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Forum – Decade of Action / National Road Safety Strategy – 11 May 2012 – Old Parliament House Canberra**  
*Clockwise from left:*

- Catherine King MP addressing the Forum
- Gerard Waldron (ARRB Managing Director)
- Sgt Rod Anderson (ACT Policing)
- Forum address
- Subaru exhibit with new EyeSight technology,
- Lauchlan McIntosh (ACRS President, ANCAP Chair) chairing the lunch session.



Together we can  
 Save millions  
 of lives.



Further information including presentations from the day are available on the [ACRS Website](#) as follows:

Catherine King MP Address:

- Media Release – [Road Deaths Continue to Fall](#) – 11 May 2012
- Media Release – [Improving International Road Safety](#) – 11 May 2012
- Speech – [1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Forum UN Decade of Action for Road Safety](#) – 11 May 2012

Road Safety Management

- Eric Howard (independent consultant) - [Global road safety management](#)
- Soames Job (National Road Safety Council) - [National road safety management](#)

Locally based organisation updates (lunchtime presentations)

- [Lauchlan McIntosh \(Australasian College of Road Safety\)](#)- ACRS
- [Andrew McKellar \(Australian Automobile Association\)](#) – AAA
- [Phil Allen \(Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries\)](#) - FCAI
- [Geoff Davidson \(ACT Government\)](#)
- [Sergeant Rod Anderson \(ACT Policing\)](#)
- [Eric Chalmers \(Kidsafe ACT\)](#)

Australian assistance in the region internationally

- [Rob Klein \(GVHI\)](#)
- [Greg Smith \(IRAP\)](#)
- [Blair Turner \(ARRB\)](#)

### **Summary of the day (ACRS perspective)**

A communiqué following this event is currently being drafted by ARRB/ACRS and will be circulated around the end of May.

### **National Overview**

- Deaths are down 3.1% in the last year compared with baseline data for NRSS (2008-2010).
- There are gaps in the data relating to injuries – new BITRE National Road Crash Database will assist in rectifying this & will be inclusive of data from the baseline years onwards.
- From available data the number of serious injuries appears to have risen. This is a significant challenge.
- Database implementation will need to consider “serious injury” definition. (Note: IRTAD is already looking at this and has made some headway –see Weekly Alert #27.) The Australasian College of Surgeons – [RACS Road Trauma Committee](#) could potentially be useful as their brief includes to:
  - focus RACS resources in the best interests of maintaining road safety for all road users, including Fellows and their families
  - support, facilitate and encourage all aspects of training and education, including the public, in regard to road trauma
  - develop links with any group that has an interest in road trauma
  - develop and support a trauma system specifically in regard to road trauma



- NRSS – Reasonable baseline document, though not excellent it is now in place and must be worked with.
- Responsibility for road safety while seen by some as the responsibility primarily of the States was somewhat confused with resource misallocation
- Excellent contributions being made by research institutions.
- Growing number of national organisations – all have significant roles.

### **Challenges - National**

- Taking institutions & levels of commitment to the next level is a significant challenge.
- Funding – particularly over the next few years. Need to be increasingly innovative (e.g. proposed National Road Safety Research Strategy).
- Increase the community's understanding of the Safe System – determine how this will increase the effectiveness of the NRSS and how best this can be done to achieve the desired outcome.
- High crash risk areas remain a challenge
  - Local government roads
  - Indigenous road safety – especially in remote regions of Australia
  - Motorcycles – rapidly growing sector - how to include it in the Safe System approach is a serious challenge.
- Need to put the spotlight on serious injury.
- Corporate involvement is required to bring quick results over regulation. Determine how best to engage corporations. Corporate interest is as much in the form of 'community interest' as in the safety component of OH&S.

### National Road Safety Executive Group (NRSEG)

- Tasked with overseeing achievements at a national, state and local level against the NRSS, and reporting progress.
  - *Note:* The National Road Safety Council (NRSC) is also tasked with *facilitating* this process by driving community discussion and facilitating road safety initiatives that assist Australia in moving closer to its road safety targets.
  - NRSC reports directly to the Standing Committee on Transport and Infrastructure (SCOTI).
- Reports to the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport.
- Each state agency from within the NRSEG also reports achievements to their respective State Minister, which is then reported up the line federally.

### **Challenges - NRSEG**

- Meeting the objectives of the NRSS, particularly in terms of the reduction in serious injuries is a challenge into the future.

### International

- Australia and New Zealand have a very strong record in road safety.
- Australia and New Zealand have built up institutions and capacity over a long period of time.
- We a moral obligation to act in the region to reduce the road toll.
- Important work is being undertaken by many organisations/agencies including GRSF, iRAP, UN work by VicPolice, GNCAP etc



- Emergence of new initiatives by RoadPol , ASEAN NCAP and others.

### ***Challenges - International***

- In the region, need to focus on changing the mind-set of the 'gatekeepers' or 'designers' of the road systems e.g. engineers, police, policy makers etc
- Need to carefully consider how to successfully identify the 'gatekeepers'.
- Need to carefully consider how to successfully engage with these 'gatekeepers'.
- Successful engagement relies on facilitating respected personal relationships to influence key individuals.
- Success of iRAP in this region opens the door for other organisations to replicate this success.

### **Thank you!**

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support in making this such a successful event – [ANCAP](#), [AAA](#) and the [NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust](#).

The event would not have happened without a dedicated team working behind the scenes and we are encouraged by the collaborative environment that developed between the ACRS, ARRB, AAA, ANCAP and the NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust as well as with the Minister's office & with all participants. This 'behind the scenes' team also included the full complement of organisations who readily agreed to present on achievements over the first year and plans for the coming 12 months, as well as those who contributed and engaged on the day.

The College would also particularly like to thank Craig Newland from AAA and Rhianne Robson from ANCAP for their competent assistance on the day & in preparation for the event. Very much appreciated!

***Thank you everyone for your support in ensuring the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary forum  
We look forward to seeing you all again at the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary event in 2013!***