



NRMA - ACT ROAD SAFETY TRUST

A road safety initiative jointly funded by NRMA Insurance and the ACT Government

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MEDIA STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN

26 May 2017

FUNDING GIFTS FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE ACT

It is my sad duty to announce that after twenty-five years of funding road-safety research initiatives the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust has come to the end of its life. It is marking its closure by announcing \$1.9 million in funding gifts to mainly ACT-based organisations.

The Trust came into existence in 1992 as a trust-based partnership between the ACT Government and NRMA Insurance. When NRMA Insurance ceased to be the sole provider of compulsory third party insurance that partnership necessarily came to an end, foreshadowed by the ACT Government in 2014. It was then the task of the Trustees to dispose of remaining funds in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed, meaning that the money was to go to entities whose goals were similar to those of the Trust, especially the furtherance of road safety within the ACT.

It has taken the Trustees a few years to wind down what was an active and productive existence, supervising several dozen projects at any time. But all remaining projects have now been finalised, and the Trustees have decided, and the ACT Government and NRMA Insurance have agreed, that the distribution of the residual funds of the Trust should be as set out in the attachment. Most of the money goes to organisations within the ACT, and the rest to universities and research organisations that have done outstanding work in road safety in the interests of the road users of the ACT.

The ANU's Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, and the University of Canberra, will each receive funding gifts of \$432,838 for two PhD Road Safety Scholarships and to fund road-safety initiatives relevant to the ACT.

In addition, a gift of \$250,000 to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for a second Road Safety Fellowship, will allow the Churchill Trust to now offer this prestigious Fellowship annually.

Other local organisations, including Kidsafe ACT, the Council on the Ageing and the National Brain Injury Foundation, will benefit significantly from these funding gifts.

Other beneficiaries are the Monash University Accident Research Centre, the George Institute for Global Health and the Queensland Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety. Each will receive \$200,000 for road safety initiatives relevant to the ACT.

These funding gifts will ensure the ACT road-using community continues to be the beneficiary of the nation's best minds in the field of road safety, long after the Trust has closed. All initiatives will need to be developed in consultation with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate of the ACT Government.

Over its lifespan the Trust committed \$21 million to some 450 projects and initiatives, and all made a valuable contribution to reducing road trauma on the region's roads. Perhaps better known outside the ACT than within it, the Trust was seen by the Australian road-safety community as an exemplar of the way to support road-safety initiatives in our nation. Its independence of government, its focus on long-term additions to knowledge of road crashes, morbidity and healing, and its preparedness to train a new cohort of road safety researchers gave it a special status within Australia.

My special thanks go to my past and present colleagues on the Trust, which I served as Chairman for sixteen years, and to two devoted and diligent Secretary-Managers, Linda Cooke and Eddie Wheeler.

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