



MEDIA RELEASE

Australasian College of Road Safety

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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Federal budget needed to coordinate road safety action

Australasia's peak membership association for road safety experts, professionals and members of the public today called for Australia's leaders to acknowledge and address Australia's most serious public health issue which **kills 25 people and seriously injures another 600 every week** across the country, and costs the nation over \$27b each year - more than our defence budget.

"Imagine the benefits to all Australians if we had a comprehensive national budget to reduce road trauma". Mr Lauchlan McIntosh, Australasian President of the College, said.

Now is the time for an increased federal program and budget to assist in coordinating a road safety program to meet our United Nations (UN) Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 and Australia's National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 responsibilities, and to provide a comprehensive program for the inaugural federal Minister for Road Safety, Hon. Catherine King MP.

The College urges the federal government to:

- Enhance existing work programs of the National Road Safety Executive Group and Austroads to ensure government infrastructure programs have safety targets;
- Enhance existing programs where the federal government already cooperates with others to further develop the safe systems approach with safer roads, safer cars and safe drivers; i.e. the Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP), the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP), the Keys to Drive program, and other national programs such as the P-plate research initiative, the naturalistic driving study, Truck Safe, seat belts in school buses, intelligent transport and enforcement systems and other community based programs.
- Initiate support with a \$5m grant over 5 years towards a Partnership program with the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australasian College of Road Safety and others for a nationally coordinated Road Safety Research partnership. This research is vital to ensure Australia can end the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety in the year 2020 with road safety trauma rates which equal, or are better than, world class.

ACRS has today released a comprehensive manifesto suggesting the nationwide benefits of a coordinated and cooperative approach to reducing road trauma.

The College urges all federal politicians to raise the profile of road trauma across our nation and internationally, and provide strong leadership and support for this coordinated approach towards road trauma reductions.

The Complete [2013 ACRS Submission to Federal Parliamentarians](#) can be downloaded here. Further information about the College can be found on the ACRS Website at acrs.org.au.

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