Preface

We are pleased to welcome you to the second annual Australasian Road Safety Conference, an amalgamation of the Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference and the Australasian College of Road Safety Conference. The conference provides the unique opportunity for those involved in all aspects of road safety, including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, police, and educators, to meet, present, and discuss their work.

These proceedings describe research, educational and policing program implementation and policy and management strategies related to all aspects of road safety and especially related to the conference themes of ‘Agility, Innovation and Impact. Some of the popular topic areas for this year include young and ageing drivers, human factors related to distraction, inattention, and fatigue, policing, vehicle safety technology, and road design. The authors of accepted papers and extended abstracts represent international and local institutions from all aspects of their respective communities including research centres, private companies, government agencies, and community groups. This great set of papers is a wonderful indication of the work being done in Australia and abroad as part of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

The Conference Organising Committee allowed three manuscript types for the Conference: full peer-reviewed papers, extended abstracts, and symposium papers. Each manuscript type was initially submitted as an extended abstract (approx. 1 to 3 pages) to expedite the review process. Each extended abstract was assigned to a conference editor with senior peer status in the respective field of road safety who allocated at least two reviewers to review the submission. Extended abstracts were reviewed for applicable content with respect to the conference theme and aims including, but not limited to, the following: novel information or data, clarity, relevance to practice or policy, scientific merit, and interest to audience.

Using a similar format to the previous successful conference in 2015, the Conference Organising Committee called for submissions in the form of Extended Abstracts. Groups of papers around similar themes were assigned to Conference Editors who organised the review process. Each Extended Abstract was reviewed by two independent reviewers on select criteria: content consistent with the conference theme, novelty of information or data, clarity, relevance to practice or policy, scientific merit, and interest to audience. A total of 138 manuscripts were accepted as extended abstracts and are presented here. For a further 31 accepted papers, the authors elected to provide full papers which were reviewed a second time and these are also included in these proceedings. Finally, a total of 11 symposium outlines were accepted which are also included.

Putting together such a high-quality program requires a contribution from many people. The proceedings editors would like to thank the conference editors for taking the time to handle submissions, allocate appropriate reviewers, and provide useful and constructive feedback to authors. Likewise, we are most grateful for those peers in the road safety field that helped to review over 225 submissions. The calibre of the conference proceedings would not be so high without your assistance and we thank you all for giving up your valuable time. The proceedings editors would also like to warmly thank all the keynote speakers and presenters, the respective Conference Organising and Scientific Committees, the conference sponsors, and session chairs. The valuable input and enthusiasm from each person and group has helped to ensure the 2016 Australasian Road Safety Conference meets the needs of the diverse range of participants and contributes to the overall success of the event. Most importantly, we hope that the work described in these proceedings will contribute to the reduction in road trauma both in Australia and internationally.
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