# **ANNUAL REPORT**





## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Professor (Em.) Ann Williamson	3	
CEO'S REPORT - Dr Ingrid Johnston	8	
VICE PRESIDENT'S (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT - Dr John Crozier	9	
ACRS IMPACT	11	
MEMBERSHIP	12	
CHAPTER & NETWORK KEY DATA	13	
ACRS 2024 - In Pictures	14	
ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS	15	
ROAD POLICING NETWORK PROFILE	16	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK PROFILE	17	
ACRS CHAPTERS IN-FOCUS	18	
ACRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS	20	
ACRS CORPORATE MEMBERS	22	
PRO-BONO SUPPORT & ACRS 2024 AWARDS	23	





his report marks the end of my three-year tenure as President of the ACRS. It has been one of the most stimulating experiences in my career and I would urge any member who has wondered whether they should throw their hat into the ring to be President, just do it! Of course, the job has not been without some challenges, but it has presented opportunities as well. In this brief report, I would like to describe some of these, not just over the past year, but the three years of my Presidency.

#### **A Continuing Problem**

Let's start with challenges. Unfortunately, after many years of improving road safety statistics, the last three years has seen the opposite (see Figures 1 and 2\*). In 2024, 1,301 Australians were killed in crashes, figures we have not seen for over a decade. Fatality rates have been sneaking up since the low in the 2020 COVID year and are now just marginally less than they were in 2017. Hospitalisations for road traffic injury have also been increasing over the last decade and are now the highest we have seen since this data was first available in 1980. These trends show that road trauma is increasing, in terms of fatalities in recent years but most notably in terms of hospitalisations which have been increasing for more than two decades.

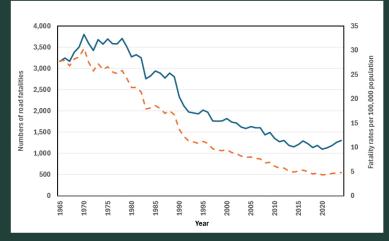


Figure 1: Trends in road fatalities in Australia 1965 to 2024 showing numbers of fatalities (solid line) and fatality rates (dotted line).

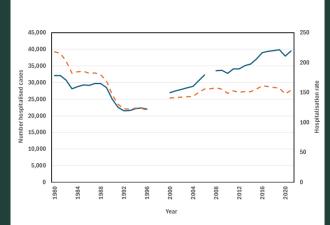


Figure 2: Trends in hospitalisation for road injury in Australia 1980 to 2021 showing numbers of hospitalisations (solid line) and hospitalisation rates (dotted line).

The problem of hospitalisations is emphasised further when you compare rates for hospitalisation and fatalities (see Figure 3 overpage). Hospitalisation rates in 2021 were more than 30 times higher than fatality rates whereas in the early 1980's hospitalisations were less than 10 times higher than fatalities. This shift suggests that our efforts to improve road safety over the last decade or two are having at best a moderate effect on fatalities, but while we may be limiting the consequences of crashes, it is at the expense of increasing injury serious enough to result in hospitalisation and increasing the overall numbers of crashes. A substantial proportion of hospitalised road trauma patients will experience significant pain and suffering and over long periods. This represents an enormous burden on our health system as well as for the injured person and their family.



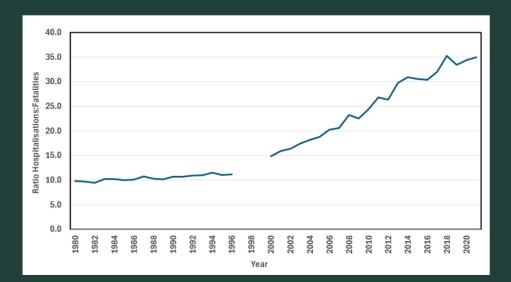


Figure 3: Trends in road trauma rates: ratio of hospitalisation rates to fatality rates for Australia, 1980 to 2021.

Available data for New Zealand shows similar trends in fatalities with road fatalities of 314 and 372 in 2023 and 2022 respectively, well above that of 10 years ago, and mortality rates in 2022 of 7.3 were somewhat higher than Australia [1]. Hospitalisation rates for road traffic injury in NZ have decreased since the early years of this century, but unlike Australia have changed comparatively little over the last decade [2]. Notably the hospitalisation-fatality rate ratio at around 10 is a similar magnitude to Australia before 2000. These patterns suggest that reducing mortality should be a primary target for road safety in New Zealand.

Evidence like this ought to direct us to review current road safety policy and action. This evidence clearly indicates that we need new and better strategies to address the wider issues in road safety. In particular, it indicates that federal government and jurisdictions across Australia and in New Zealand should reassess their approaches to road safety as clearly current activities are not having the required impact.

#### Advocacy for Road Safety

The ACRS plays an active role in attempting to encourage action on road safety through the media, submissions to inquiries and direct meetings with members of parliament and senior public servants. Over the past three years, the ACRS has put out 33 media releases (11 in 2024) and engaged in media on 87 occasions (35 in 2024) as well as made 50 submissions to government inquiries (16 in 2024). Over the period we also held direct meetings with individual members of parliaments and held or participated in two or three Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety workshops each year.

In addition, the ACRS has provided more formal leadership in strategic road safety areas through a series of Policy Position Statements. These cover new approaches to Climate Change and Road Safety, Speed Management, and A New Systems Thinking Approach to Road Safety as well as the need for better and more comprehensive road safety data and in-depth analysis to understand why crashes occur and whether our attempts to prevent them are having real benefit. Groups of volunteers from our membership developed three Statements in 2023 and a further three in 2024 including on Motorcycle Safety and the Vehicle as a Workplace. Five more Statements are in development.



Clearly the ACRS has been doing a considerable amount of advocacy for road safety and given the road safety statistics cited above, it is certainly needed. The effect of advocacy is probably incremental though so we should continue with this side of our work and even increase it with the objective of creating a momentum within government and road authorities to take up some of our suggested action to improve road safety.

#### **Building Capacity in Road Safety**

Another major role of the ACRS is to provide a focus for road safety professional development and knowledge sharing or continuing education. In early 2023, the ACRS published the results of a survey of road safety and related professionals that highlighted the need to improve career pathways for road safety professionals through creating greater synergy between road safety professionals from social and physical sciences, improving professional development and education in road safety and building greater capacity and capability for road safety professionals. Around the same time, the first ACRS Strategic Planning meeting made similar recommendations about building capacity for road safety professionals. These, together with some funding from the federal government, provided the impetus to establish a Capacity Building working group from our membership by the end of 2023.

The first objective of this project is to produce an online Road Safety Body of Knowledge using a similar model to one developed for Occupational Health and Safety. This Body of Knowledge includes taking a transdisciplinary approach to road safety that:

- transcends separate disciplinary perspectives,
- covers the most up-to-date collective knowledge needed to understand road safety,
- is arranged in chapters written by subject specialists with a technical panel for review, and
- is reviewed within five years to maintain currency.

Excellent progress has been made on this project due to a very active working group. So far, we have developed the contents of the Body of Knowledge, ACRS members have volunteered to take on the task of authors and reviewers for all chapters, and writing or planning has commenced for almost all chapters. The first, Introductory chapter, is complete.

The development of a Road Safety Body of Knowledge is an exciting project for the ACRS. There is currently no similar resource for road safety professionals which provides the transdisciplinary perspective needed. The Body of Knowledge will also be the basis for subsidiary products that will be enormously useful for the ACRS and members. These include an online, accessible and self-paced transdisciplinary Fundamentals of Road Safety training module, development of a register of endorsed road safety training programs, and ultimately a certification system, designed to recognise professional learning for road safety professionals.

#### **Resourcing the work of the ACRS**

Like other nonprofit professional societies, an ongoing challenge for the ACRS is funding the work we want and need to do. When I assumed the President role, we had an uncomfortably large projected operating deficit even though our capital savings were providing a significant buffer. It is clear that relying only on revenue even from our highly successful conference and membership fees will be insufficient to support the increasing scope of work undertaken by the ACRS. Over the past three



years the deficit has reduced markedly due largely to the budget-reducing actions of our CEO and our success in grant funding. We still need to do more work though to establish an ongoing funding stream for the ACRS.

Several proposals are under consideration by federal and state governments, that if successful will produce an ongoing funding stream. Most notable is our proposal for funding to support Bronze ACRS membership for all local governments in Australia. As around 70 percent of roads are the responsibility of local government, this would expand access for professionals working in local government to the road safety resources of the ACRS, helping to improve road safety in these areas. The rapid growth of our Local Government Network to over 335 existing members in as little as 12 months is testament to the level of interest and need to strengthen road safety expertise in this important area. Increasing corporate memberships will in turn help the ACRS to improve and expand our resources for road safety professionals.

There is still work to be done in broadening our corporate memberships and exploring the potential for jurisdictions that hypothecate enforcement revenue for road safety to apply some of these funds to supporting the work of the ACRS. The impetus to establish an ongoing substantial funding stream is strong and I believe we will be successful in the next financial year.

Some recent changes to the governance and status of the ACRS may also assist. After considerable work by our national secretariat team and the pro bono advice from Maddocks lawyers we recently changed our corporate structure from an Incorporated Association in the ACT to a Company Limited by Guarantee, registering us under federal law and allowing us to operate nationally. This required some small changes to our Constitution but is more appropriate for an organisation of our current size and composition. We have also been successful in achieving charity status with the Australian Charity and Not for profits Commission, allowing us to access additional potential grant and funding opportunities.

#### Some final words

It has been a busy three years for the ACRS, but we have a lot to show for it. There are so many other activities that I have left out of this report: the three successful annual Australasian Road Safety Conferences in Cairns, Christchurch and Hobart, and the establishment of a Tasmania Chapter for example. I am very pleased that the ACRS activities are really valued by our members. For example, our member surveys show that the greater majority of members are satisfied or very satisfied with the road safety resources the ACRS provides.

A great deal of our success on a day-to-day basis is thanks to our wonderful CEO, Ingrid Johnston and the strong national support team of Lesley Tipping (Senior Communications Manager), Gemma Beet (Data Systems Manager), Anna Lang (Grants Manager), Bao Ngo (Finance Manager), as well as Michelle Thomas (Project Manager), Caroline Colbran (Project Support Officer), and Emma Jensson (Administration Officer) who provide the backbone of ongoing projects like Capacity Building for road safety. I have enjoyed working with this team.

I think the ACRS is distinguished by its strong collegiate culture that generates involvement from members at a very high level. I guess an area like road safety where there is so much to lose when we don't get it right, will attract people with passion and resolve to give up time and energy to do



something about it. I would like to sincerely thank all the many members of the ACRS that contribute expertise and time to ensure we are achieving our vision and objectives. The ACRS is playing a significant role in road safety, but we need to keep our collective feet on the accelerator.

I wish the President-elect Teresa Williams and the new Council well in continuing the challenge.

#### **References:**

\* Note: Figures 1 and 2 were constructed from multiple Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) resources where data were available including:

#### For Fatalities:

 1965-1997
 www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/roads/safety/publications/1998/pdf/Stats\_Aust\_8.pdf

 1998-2006
 www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/is\_038.pdf

 2007-2012
 www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/Road\_Trauma\_Australia\_2016\_rev.pdf

2013-2022 www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/road\_trauma\_2022.pdf

2023-2024 BITRE ARDD Dashboard https://app.powerbi.com/

UwZjQ1M2JhYTgxliwidCl6ImFhMjFiNjQwLWJhYzItNDU2ZC04NTA1LWYyY2MwN2Y1MTc4NCJ9

#### For hospitalisations:

1980-2007 www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/is\_038.pdf

2008-2014 www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/Road\_Trauma\_Australia\_2016\_rev.pdf

2015-2021 https://datahub.roadsafety.gov.au/progress-reporting/hospitalised-injuries

[1] www.ehinz.ac.nz/assets/Surveillance-reports/Released\_2024/Transport-injury-mortality-202411.pdf

[2] www.ehinz.ac.nz/assets/Surveillance-reports/Released\_2024/2024-transport-injury-mortality-final.



Pictured above: ACRS President: Prof (Em.) Ann Williamson

### **CEO'S REPORT** Dr Ingrid Johnston



Reflecting back on 2024 for the ACRS, and road safety generally, leaves me feeling conflicted. In many places around the world, not least in Australia and New Zealand, 2024 was a very challenging year for road safety. We've seen increasing trauma rates, evidence-based policy being wound back and a confirmation as we approach the halfway point of the current decade of action, that most places will be struggling to meet their targets. At the same time though, we've also seen a galvanising of advocacy, and growth in engagement within the ACRS. Our strength is in our people and our collective actions, and it's been a very busy year with our members enthusiastically taking up opportunities to engage, and often, creating new ones.

Our membership has continued to grow and increase in engagement, especially in our International Outreach Chapter and Networks. By the end of 2024, our reach extended around the globe, with members from 43 different countries. The success of our Networks is clear, with membership more than doubling in the Local Government Network, and over 200 members joining the Women in Road Safety Network in its first year. At the conference in Hobart we also saw the new Road Policing Network officially launched, with fantastic engagement throughout the Pacific region.

With over 2,000 people attending the many ACRS events throughout the year, and many others viewing recordings of our webinars, there is clearly a strong appetite for the knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities provided through the ACRS activities.

Our Journal of Road Safety continues to increase its profile globally, with almost 50,000 page views in 2024, and a steadily increasing number of papers being submitted. Making sure that our journal provides high quality, peer reviewed evidence that is openly accessible to everyone is important and continues to be strongly supported.

During 2024, we had another three policy position statements adopted at the Annual General Meeting – Motorcycle Safety, The Vehicle as a Workplace, and A New Systems Thinking Approach to Road Safety, bringing the total to six, with another two on their way to the next AGM in May 2025. These policy position statements demonstrate the strength of our diverse membership, with writing groups and member consultation producing well thought through, evidence-based documents providing easy reference for our advocacy efforts. Ensuring they remain current is a key element, and during the next 12 months, we will be refreshing and updating our first ones adopted in 2023 – Climate Change and Road Safety, Speed Management, and Data and Information Needs.

Our Capacity Building Project also commenced in 2024, and is shaping up to be an exciting development for the ACRS. Stay tuned for the Road Safety Body of Knowledge and accompanying online training courses to be launched in the coming months.

The ACRS has grown and evolved over the years, and in recognition of this, during 2024 we started the transition from being an Association Incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory, to being a Company Limited by Guarantee, with an updated Constitution. I would like to thank our pro-bono lawyers, Maddocks, for their assistance in steering us through the processes. This change, along with registration through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission of our status as a charity, more accurately reflects the breadth and scope of our work.

Thanks go to all of our members for supporting the ACRS and bringing their expertise to the many and varied engagement and advocacy opportunities we have. Your dedication and willingness to volunteer are the reasons why ACRS is able to do what we do. Thanks also to the team at the ACRS Office for all the behind the scenes work to support our members.

Finally, I would like to recognise and thank our outgoing President, Ann Williamson, for her boundless energy and enthusiasm over the past 3 years. It's been a pleasure working alongside Ann and our wonderful members, and I'm looking forward to continuing that with our new President.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT Dr John Crozier



am pleased to present the Vice President's (Finance & Administration) Report for the Australasian College of Road Safety for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

#### **Financial Performance:**

The financials for 2024 have been reviewed and signed off by the auditor, confirming that they fairly represent the financial position of the ACRS as at 31 December 2024. The year 2024 saw a net loss of \$113,913, compared to a net loss of \$237,038 in 2023.

#### Table 1. Budget vs Actuals for 2024

	Budget	Actual
Income	2,365,000	1,836,940
Expenditure	2,507,390	1,950,853
Net Surplus / Deficit	(142,390)	(113,913)

#### Auditor's Recommendations:

I am pleased to report that there were no recommendations from the auditor for the year 2024.

#### **Financial Risk Management:**

The ACRS continues to decrease its deficit year on year; however consistent losses need to be addressed. The current trajectory suggests that without new or increased revenue sources, ongoing deficits will continue to erode reserves.

#### **Revenue:**

In 2024, our membership income declined compared to 2023, with a decrease from \$207,611 to \$193,728. This represents a drop of approximately 7%. The decline was largely due to lower-than-expected uptake of corporate memberships, particularly in the gold and silver tiers. While the membership structure and pricing remained consistent, the anticipated sign-ups, including bulk council memberships, did not materialise. Unlike the previous year, there were no accounting adjustments or deferred income that might have inflated figures, making this a true year-on-year decline.

Membership Type	Income 2024	Income 2023
Assoc Fellow	\$1,682	\$3,981
Comm Org	\$1,377	\$2,686
Concession	\$4,427	\$3,486
Corp Bronze	\$58,136	\$58,663
Corp Gold	\$7,091	\$21,272
Corp Platinum	\$19,091	\$18,181
Corp Silver	\$48,636	\$60,654
Fellow	-	-
LMIC	\$628	\$299
Personal	\$52,010	\$37,576
Student	\$650	\$809
Total Membership	\$193,728	\$207,611

## VICE PRESIDENT'S (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT Dr John Crozier



The 2024 ARSC was a successful event which resulted in a \$253,392 surplus overall.

#### **Expenditure:**

Key expenditures in 2024 were primarily driven by the ACRS's operational activities and strategic investments, particularly in support of grant-funded initiatives. While overall expenses increased compared to 2023, many of these costs were aligned with project delivery and long-term organisational improvements.

#### The main areas of expenditure include:

- **Salaries and Wages:** The increase in staffing costs reflects the Operations Manager and Finance Manager positions to strengthen governance processes and improve service delivery.
- **Consulting Fees:** In 2024, consulting expenditure increased significantly due to the need for external expertise to support the delivery of key grant milestones. A portion of this cost was also attributed to the continued implementation and refinement of the bespoke CRM system, which required specialised technical support to ensure its effective rollout and integration into ACRS operations.

#### **Balance Sheet:**

The ACRS concluded 2024 with a financial position reporting net assets (Total Members' Funds) of \$496,316, primarily held as cash at bank. While this represents a decrease from the previous year, it reflects the planned deficit for 2024 and the strategic use of reserves to support operational growth and investment in infrastructure, such as staffing and systems development. The balance sheet remains stable, with adequate liquidity to meet current obligations and continue delivering core activities.

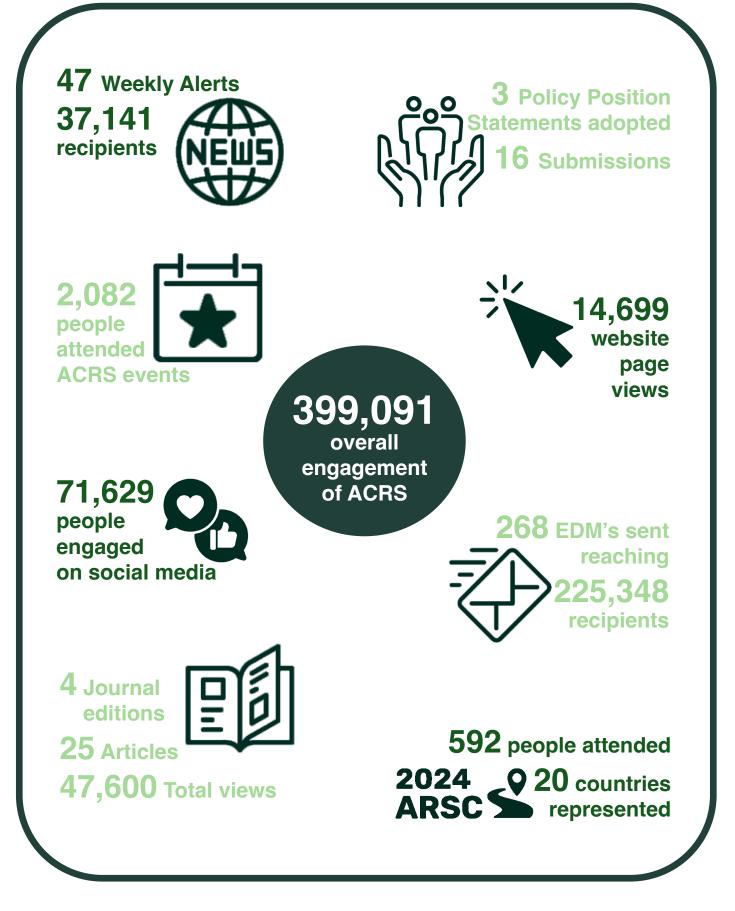
#### **Budget:**

The 2025 budget anticipates a deficit of (\$30,581), reflecting the ACRS's strategic priorities to increase membership income and alternative income streams (course and conference recording sales) being a big part in the financial objectives for the upcoming year.

In conclusion, although 2024 continued to present financial challenges, the ACRS remains committed to financial sustainability and delivering value to its members. Actual trading income fell short of budget expectations, primarily due to lower-than-anticipated membership and grant income, including some budgeted grants that were ultimately unsuccessful. However, operating expenses were carefully managed and came in below budget—largely due to the 0.8 FTE Operations Manager role not being refilled. This reflects the ACRS's ongoing efforts to manage costs and allocate resources effectively.

Despite income shortfalls, the actual deficit was lower than projected, highlighting the impact of costsaving measures and operational efficiencies. This disciplined financial approach ensures the ACRS remains well-positioned to pursue its long-term strategic objectives.

### **ACRS IMPACT**



### **MEMBERSHIP**

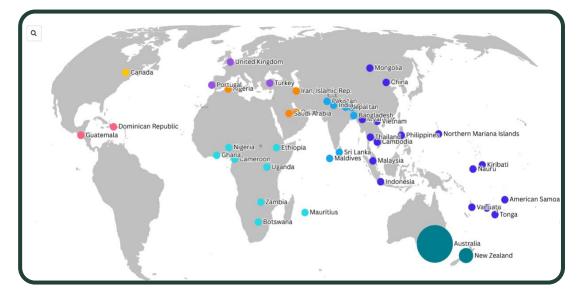
In 2024, ACRS had over 1,000 members spanning 43 countries, reflecting the global and multidisciplinary nature of our community. Our members include influential leaders such as Directors shaping policy and research agendas, esteemed academics and professors, organisational CEOs, and frontline practitioners—among them, Engineers and Road Safety Officers—working directly to improve outcomes on roads.

The strength of ACRS lies not only in individual memberships, but also in the broad cross-sectoral engagement we foster. Our community includes representation from all levels of government, policy and enforcement bodies, research institutions, private sector organisations, educational providers, advocacy groups, emergency services, and health-focused entities.

This collective embodies the collaborative spirit essential to addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of road safety. The diversity of our membership highlights a shared commitment across sectors to making roads safer—locally, nationally, and globally.

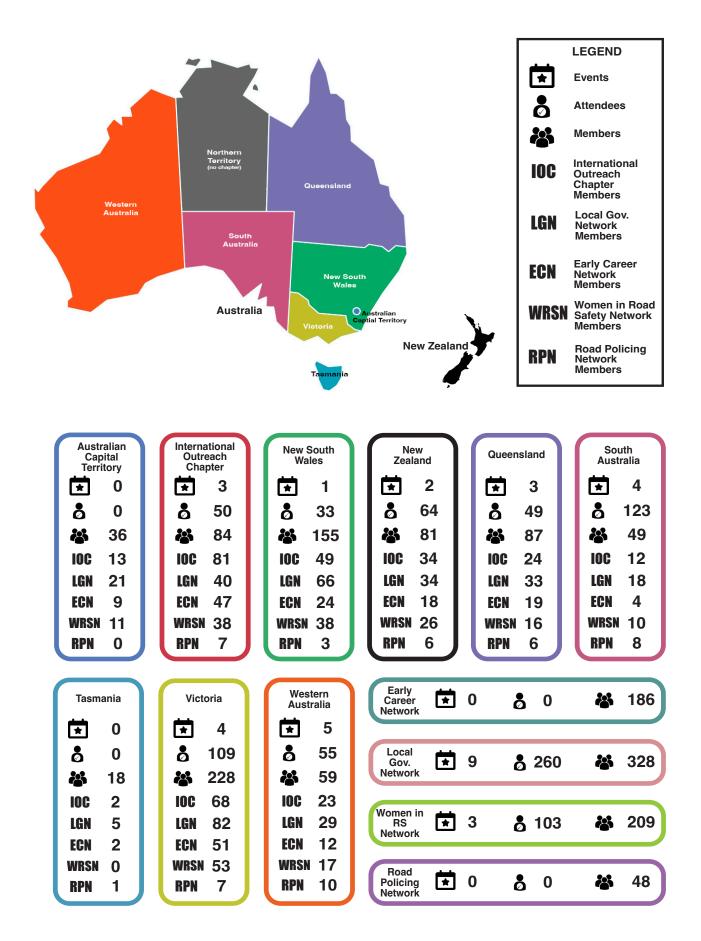


Pictured above: 2024 ARSC LMIC scholarship winners with Judy Fleiter and Tana Tan



Click on the map (at left) to open up our online interactive map to see how many members we have, and where they are based across the globe.

## **CHAPTER & NETWORK KEY DATA**

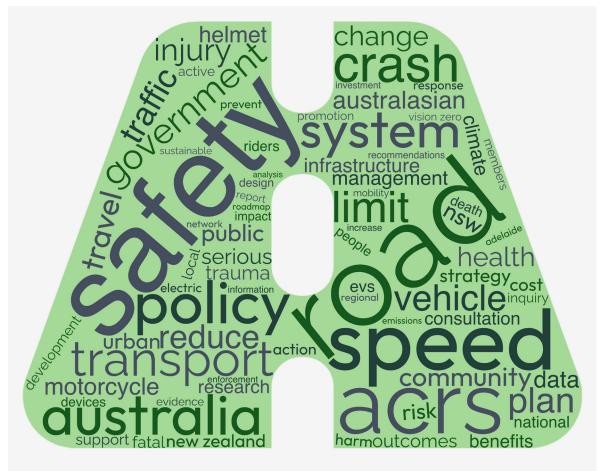






ACRS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## **ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS**



#### **ACRS SUBMISSIONS**

The ACRS made 16 submissions throughout 2024, with a focus on improving road safety outcomes across Australia and New Zealand (Aust: four, ACT: one, NZ: four, SA: two, NSW: four, NT: one).

The submissions included: Developing a new Towards Zero Road Safety Action Plan 2024-2028; Inquiry into the Transition to Electric Vehicles; Draft NZ Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024-34; NSW Bus Industry Taskforce 2024; NZ Transport Agency proposed cuts to road safety staff; Inquiry into immediate trauma support services in the ACT; the National Urban Policy for Australia; Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 (NZ); The use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options; Draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan; Religious Exemptions for the Wearing of Helmets; South Australia's Transport Strategy early engagement, and more.

#### ACRS MEDIA

A total of 11 media releases were distributed by the ACRS in 2024 focusing on topics such as evidence-based speed management, speed cameras, federal budget and road safety funding, point-topoint speed cameras, seatbelts on buses, 2024 Australasian Road Safety Conference, Bruce Highway, safety ratings and ADRs, school zone speed limits, and more.

Media coverage of ACRS has ranged from national news publications across Australia and New Zealand (online and print), national and state-based TV and Radio programs, and regional news organisations.

View all ACRS SUBMISSIONS from 2024 by clicking here

View all ACRS MEDIA RELEASES from 2024 by clicking here

## **ROAD POLICING NETWORK**

#### STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR SAFER ROADS

The ACRS officially launched the Road Policing Network (RPN) at the 2024 Australasian Road Safety Conference in Hobart. The aim of this network is to highlight the crucial role of policing in influencing road user behaviour and improving road safety outcomes. Chaired by Associate Professor Lyndel Bates (LB) from the Griffith Criminology Institute at Griffith University, Brisbane, the RPN is set to become a key platform for collaboration between road policing practitioners and researchers.

### What is the primary mission of the Road Policing Network within the ACRS?

LB: "The primary mission of the Road Policing Network within the ACRS is to highlight the important role that policing plays in changing road user behaviour in order to improve road safety outcomes."

### Who are the typical members of the RPN, and what roles do they play in road policing?

LB: "We don't have a typical member as such. Anyone with an interest in road policing can join the network. We have members who are police officers, professionals (not police officers) who work within police agencies, university academics and research students as members."

#### How does the RPN facilitate collaboration between practitioners and academics in the field of road policing?

LB: "The RPN facilitates collaboration in a number of ways including:

(1) highlighting the importance of evidence based practice

(2) ensuring a voice for both practitioners and researchers at events

(3) clearly demonstrating the applied nature of research undertaken

(4) providing time for networking at the Australasian Road Safety Conference workshop."

## What specific opportunities does the RPN offer for members to connect and share best practices?

LB: "RPN hosts a workshop at the Australasian Road Safety Conference and events that members are able to attend."

> Pictured L to R: Mr Neville Taylor, Dr Helen Wells, A/Prof Lyndel Bates, Assist Comm Livai Driu

#### What are the current

### challenges faced by the RPN, and how does the network plan to address them?

LB: "A key challenge is highlighting how important road policing is to enhancing the safety of people. RPN has a significant opportunity to highlight the importance this area plays in reducing deaths and injuries. The Injury in Australia report highlights that 61,178 (or 233.5 age standardised rate (ASR) per 100,000) people were hospitalised as a result of transport injuries in 2022-23 compared with 20,490 people hospitalised as the result of an assault (81.2 ASR per 100,000). When looking at deaths, transport results in 1,471 (or 5.4 ASR per 100,000) while homicide is 218 (or 0.8 ASR per 100,000)."

### What can interested individuals expect from joining the RPN?

LB: "Individuals who join the RPN can expect an opportunity to connect with experts in road policing including practitioners and academics, access to evidence-based practices that can improve road policing strategies and operations and an opportunity to expand professional networks."

### What are the future goals of the RPN, and how does the network plan to achieve them?

LB: "(1) Highlight the important role that road policing plays within police agencies and the road safety community.

(2) Use the network to enhance the effectiveness and capacity of road policing through the use of practice-based research.

(3) Demonstrate the value of belonging to our network by hosting regular events and hosting a workshop at the Australasian Road Safety Conference.

(4) Grow our membership - both practitioners and researchers - throughout Australasia and the Pacific."



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

THE POWER OF CONNECTION: How the Local Government Network is strengthening road safety



For many road safety professionals working in local government, it can often feel like they're tackling the challenges alone. That's where the ACRS Local Government Network (LGN) comes in - offering a

space for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and support for those working on the frontlines of road safety.

**Building a Community of Road Safety Champions** 

The LGN was established in February 2023 and has grown rapidly, reaching 328 members by the end of 2024. It welcomes any ACRS member working in or interested in local government road safety. For Chairperson Melanie Suitor, this network is more than just a professional group—it's a vital support system for practitioners who are often working in isolation.

"Local government plays a huge role in road safety, managing the majority of our road networks. But without strong connections and shared learning, there's a risk of duplicating efforts or missing out on innovative solutions," Melanie explains. "The LGN bridges that gap, ensuring councils and road safety professionals can collaborate and access the best available knowledge."

Melanie adds, "Two years ago, I thought I was a wellrounded practitioner, with 20+ years of experience. But since joining the LGN, my knowledge has blossomed. Learning from others has deepened my understanding of local government road safety challenges and solutions."

From Regional Beginnings to National Impact Melanie's own journey into road safety is a testament to the unexpected paths careers can take. With a background in communications, she stepped into a Road Safety Officer role in regional NSW over two decades ago. "I figured I would learn the rest on the job—and I did," she says. "Road safety is a career that truly saves lives, and that's what keeps me motivated."

Her passion for road safety has driven her involvement in the LGN, where she's seen first-hand

how the network benefits local government professionals. "We

connect people and ideas, share experiences, and help councils tackle challenges with proven solutions. It's incredibly rewarding to see how much we've achieved in such a short time."

#### Supporting Practitioners, Improving Outcomes

The LGN provides a range of initiatives to help local government professionals stay informed and connected. Monthly online meetings feature guest speakers, project showcases, and open discussions. "My personal favourite is the 'Ask the Brains Trust' sessions," says Melanie. "It's a chance for members to bring their challenges to the group and tap into a wealth of collective expertise."

Recent successes highlight the LGN's impact. Following an LGN webinar on rural roundabouts, one council connected with another that had recently installed similar treatments—leading to cost savings and improved design. Another council developed a Network Safety Plan after engaging with LGN discussions on the topic. The network has also played a role in national policy discussions, contributing to road safety funding program reviews.

#### A Call for Greater Support

Despite the crucial role local government plays in road safety, funding and resources remain a challenge. "Local councils have fewer dedicated road safety staff than their state and federal counterparts," Melanie notes. "That's why the LGN is so important—it helps practitioners make the most of the resources they do have by sharing knowledge and solutions."

The LGN is now focused on expanding its reach and impact. "We encourage more staff, policymakers, and community members to get involved. The more perspectives we include, the stronger and more effective our network will be."

For those considering a career in local government road safety, Melanie offers this advice: "Do it. It's incredibly rewarding. You work directly with your community and can see the real-world impact of your work. The road safety community is welcoming, supportive, and always willing to share."

With its growing membership and commitment to collaboration, the ACRS Local Government Network is demonstrating that connection is key to creating safer roads for all.

- Read the full interview with Melanie Suitor here.
- Read the LGN Report 2024 In-review here.

Read more about the ACRS Local Government Network (LGN) by clicking here

## **ACRS CHAPTERS IN-FOCUS**

#### NSW CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY Community Engagement: E-Mobility Forum

and Parliamentary Appearance - On 6 August 2024 the NSW Chapter held an e-mobility forum in Sydney. Supported by the NRMA, in-person attendees were joined by an online audience from regional NSW and interstate, hearing from five presenters who gave their perspectives on e-bike and e-scooter safety. Attended by about 50 people, the forum was organised in response to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into e-mobility. Learnings from the forum were applied in an ACRS submission to the inquiry which is accessible on the ACRS website.

Mr Michael Timms, NSW Chapter Chair, and Deputy Chair Dr Tasha Prabhakar, were called to give evidence to the inquiry on 30 October 2024. The committee report later quoted evidence from Mr Timms who explained that finding the right regulatory mix becomes particularly complex when considering e-mobility devices.

Some early conversations have begun around the alignment of road resurfacing practices and signage to the Austroads Guidelines.

#### SA CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY Road Safety Week Half Day joint seminar,

**Wed 8 May** - To mark National Road Safety Week 2024, the ACRS SA Chapter and AITPM SA Branch jointly held a very successful Road Safety Half Day Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The program featured speakers from the Centre of Automotive Safety Research (CASR), National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO), the Royal Automobile Association (RAA), and Safe System Solutions (SSS).

The seminar had a half day format with two sessions during the morning, a networking morning tea, and concluded with a networking lunch. Holding the joint event proved to be very beneficial and a similar ACRS / AITPM half day seminar is planned for Road Safety Week 2025. <u>Read the extended 2024 ACRS SA Chapter Report</u> <u>for AGM here</u>.

#### ACT CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY

Activities & Highlights - During 2024, the Chapter cemented its regular meetings at the ACT Government offices, which have been well attended. The diversity of interests have been a real strength with perspectives across heavy vehicle safety, vulnerable road users, and young and older road user cohorts, combining government, user group, practitioner, and academic frameworks.

The Chapter met with the new ACT Minister for Road Safety and members have successfully secured project funding to advance a number of road safety initiatives, demonstrating the impact of the Chapter's expertise and advocacy. <u>Read the extended 2024 ACT Chapter Report here.</u>

#### **IOC CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY**

The IOC had a busy year in 2024 with rapidly growing membership, with members in 40 plus countries. During the ARSC in Hobart, Tasmania the committee held a LMIC Vision Zero workshop. This included a keynote presentation by Lars Ekman from Sweden and presentations by Blair Turner and Shane Turner, followed by a workshop on priority safety initiatives, managed by Tana Tan.

Several webinars were held including Star Rating for Schools in Botswana and the Thailand Road Safety/ThaiRAP Program. Planning is underway for 2025, including three more webinars, and a LMIC workshop at the 2025 ARSC in Perth. Several members are also looking at options to hold ACRS sponsored meetings in various cities/ countries as part of promoting road safety and the benefits of ACRS membership.

## **ACRS CHAPTERS IN-FOCUS**



#### TAS CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY

**2024 Australasian Road Safety Conference** -The Tasmanian Chapter and sterling organisation team were pleased to host the annual Australasian Road Safety Conference (ARSC), with Hobart providing a fine welcome to the almost 600 road safety practitioners. Great presentations and networking opportunities as always. Our thanks go to our outgoing Chapter Chair Jenny Branch-Allen for her leadership, networking skills and commitment to the 2024 ARSC.

At a committee level we have a few new members with others stepping back for a moment. Our existing members have a range of diverse road safety interests from the contribution of car colour to crashes, animals in cars, speed limit setting, training matters, road safety audits, and alignment with Austroads Guidelines. Our networking at a local level is ongoing with good conversations being held. We have also contributed to a local discussion around the community appetite to lower the School Zone limit to 30kph. We were able to add support to the Hobart conversation in print and radio.

#### WA CHAPTER 2024 SUMMARY

The WA Chapter members and committee have been active throughout 2024 with advocacy activities, engaging with governments and other partners to improve road safety. ACRS participated in the WA Road Safety Summit. We provided opportunities to learn from and collaborate with others from across our WA road safety community. The post-ARSC event where papers by Western Australians were re-presented was well attended and valuable. An informative bus tour was well appreciated for National Road Safety Week in May (see photo).

Our leading activity continues to be Book Club, where a particular report is presented and discussed. Event topics have ranged from feedback on the Young Drivers Trial, to the National Urban Policy, to the Advanced Driving Simulator. A significant proportion of the Committee members' work has been preparing for the 2025 Conference in Perth in October. So come and meet us!



Pictured: Members of the 2024 ARSC Host and Scientific Committees





Pictured: WA Members during National Road Safety Week.

Pictured left: ACRS IOC members at 2024 ARSC

## **ACRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

represents members who stepped down from roles during 2024;
represents members who began roles in 2024.

### ACRS STAFF

- Dr Ingrid Johnston CEO
- Ms Lesley Tipping Senior Communications Manager
- Mx Gemma Beet Data Systems Manager
- Ms Anna Lang Grants Manager
- Ms Bao Ngo Finance Manager
- Ms Emma Jensson Administration Officer
- Ms Caroline Colbran Project Support Officer
- Ms Michelle Thomas Project Manager
- Ms Cecily Michaels Operations Manager 💠

#### ACRS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Prof (Em) Ann Williamson President
- Prof Narelle Haworth Vice President (Policy)
- Dr John Crozier Vice President (Finance & Admin)
- Ms Teresa Williams President Elect
- Prof Sharon Newnam Committee Member \*/Secretary
- Dr Ingrid Johnston CEO
- Dr Rod Katz ACT Chapter Rep. \*/CNC Rep
- Dr Jamie Mackenzie SA Chapter Rep. �/CNC Rep □
- A/Prof Sjaan Koppel Committee Member
- Dr Karen Stephan Committee Member 🗖
- Mr Martin Small Committee Member \*
- A/Prof Mark King Treasurer & QLD Chapter Rep. \*
- The late Dr Prasannah Prabhakharan NSW Chapter Rep. 💠
- Ms Liz Waller Committee Member \*
- Mr David McTiernan Committee Member \*
- Mr Paul Durdin NZ Chapter Rep. 🛠
- Mr Bruce Conaghan NZ Chapter Rep. 💠
- Ms Chris Harrison VIC Chapter Rep. 🛠
- Ms Jenny Branch-Allen TAS Chapter Rep. \*
- Dr Shane Turner IO Chapter Rep. 🛠

#### **ACRS FINANCE & RISK AUDIT COMMITTEE**

- Dr John Crozier Vice President (Finance & Admin)/Chair D
- Prof (Em) Ann Williamson President
- Ms Teresa Williams Committee Member/President Elect
- Dr Ingrid Johnston CEO
- Mr Matthew Irvine Committee Member
- Dr Rod Katz Committee Member
- AC Glenn Weir APM Committee Member
- A/Prof Mark King Treasurer 💠

#### ACRS EXTERNAL CONTRACTORS

- A/Prof Marilyn Johnson JRS Editor-in-Chief
- Chika Sakashita (Global Road Safety Solutions) JRS Managing Editor
- MCI ARSC2024 Organiser
- Patrick Watts (Alpha Accounts) Bookkeeper
- Jennie Hawkshaw (See Accounting) Auditor
- R2Network IT support

ACRS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- FutureTheory Web Developer
- Lesley Parton CRM Contractor

#### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY COMMITTEE**

- Dr Rod Katz Chair
- Mr Steve Lake Treasurer
- Ms Kate McDougall Secretary
- Ms Fran Stanford Committee Member
- Ms Kate Beck Committee Member
- Mr Lauchlan McIntosh AM Committee Member
- Ms Tracey Norberg Secretary \*
- Mr Eddie Wheeler Committee Member \*

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES COMMITTEE**

- Mr Michael Timms Co-Chair &/Chair 🗖
- The late Dr Prasannah Prabhakharan Co-Chair &/Committee Member
- Dr Tasha Prabhakar Committee Member &/Deputy Chair 🗖
- Mr David Beck Secretary
- Dr John Crozier Committee Member
- Mr David McTiernan Committee Member
- Dr Ralston Fernandes Committee Member
- Dr Cassandra Gauld Committee Member
- Mr David Wakelin Committee Member
- Mr Josh Devitt Committee Member
- Ms Annie Peoples Events Coordinator +
- Mr Duncan McRae Committee Member 🛠

#### **NEW ZEALAND COMMITTEE**

- Mr Paul Durdin Co-Chair
- Mr Bruce Conaghan Co-Chair &/Committee Member
- Ms Robyn Gardener Treasurer/Secretary &/Co-Chair 🗖
- Dr Rebecca McLean Committee Member
- Dr Hamish Mackie Committee Member
- Ms Melanie Muirson Committee Member
- Ms Ping Sim Committee Member
- Mr Sam Pasley Committee Member
- Mr Robert Swears Committee Member

#### QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE

- A/Prof Gregoire Larue Chair 🗖
- A/Prof Mark King Chair 🛠
- Mr Simon Kirkpatrick Deputy Chair 😽
- Mr Chae Rose Secretary/Treasurer 🕈
- Prof Barry Watson Committee Member
- Prof Narelle Haworth Committee Member
- A/Prof Ioni Lewis Committee Member
- Dr Natalie Watson-Brown Committee Member
- Dr Sherrie-Anne Kaye Committee Member
- Mr Marcus Cosgrove Committee Member
- Ms Susan Teerds Committee Member
- Dr Angela Watson Committee Member 🛠
- Prof Teresa Senserrick Committee Member +
- Dr Oscar Oviedo-Trespalacious Committee Member 💠

Continued

PAGE 20

- Ms Veronica Baldwin Committee Member +
- Ms Shellie Franssen Committee Member \*
  Dr Verity Truelove Committee Member \*

## **ACRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

represents members who stepped down from roles during 2024;
represents members who began roles in 2024.



#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE

- Dr Jamie Mackenzie Chair
- Mr Matthew Vertudaches Deputy Chair
- Dr Jeffrey Dutschke Treasurer
- Mr Philip Blake Secretary
- A/Prof Jeremy Woolley Committee Member
- Mr Martin Small Committee Member
- Mr Amit Dua Committee Member
- Mr Brett Williams Committee Member
- Supt Jaimi Burns Committee Member
- Ms Kerry McConnell Committee Member
- Dr Lisa Wundersitz Committee Member
- Dr Tana Tan Committee Member
- Supt Shane Johnson Committee Member
- Supt Darren Fielke Committee Member \*

#### **TASMANIA COMMITTEE**

- Ms Jenny Branch-Allen Chair &/Committee Member
- Mr Gary McDonald Deputy Chair &/Chair 🗖
- Mr Terry McCarthy Secretary
- Mr Craig Hoey Committee Member

#### **VICTORIA COMMITTEE**

- Ms Chris Harrison Chair
- Ms Kathryn Collier Deputy Chair
- Ms Wendy Taylor Secretary/Treasurer \*/Committee Member □
- Ms Lisa Bagnati Communications/Social Media
- Ms Samantha Buckis Committee Member \*/Secretary
- Mr Kenn Beer Committee Member
- Prof Max Cameron Committee Member
- A/Prof Ashim Debnath Committee Member
- Sgt Bernadette Jordon Committee Member
- A/Prof Sjaan Koppel Committee Member
- Mr Rob Jaske Committee Member
- Dr Amir Sobhani Committee Member
- Sr Sgt Tim Cumming Committee Member
- Mr Shaun Lennard Committee Member D
- Ms Julie Downey Committee Member 💠
- Mr Ross Gregory Committee Member \*
- Mr Craig Hoey Committee Member \*
- Mr Chris Jurewicz Committee Member \*
- Dr Jeff Potter Committee Member 💠

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE

- Ms Teresa Williams Chair Chair Chair
- Dr Fritha Argus Committee Member &/Chair 🗖
- Mr Edward Rose Treasurer �/Deputy Chair □
- Ms Terri-Anne Pettet Member Engagement &/Treasurer
- Ms Christine Smith Secretary
- Ms Rachel Goodsell Committee Member
- Dr Brett Hughes Committee Member
- Mr Adam Wilmot Committee Member

#### INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- Dr Shane Turner Co-Chair (New Zealand)
- Dr Masria Mustafa Co-Chair (Malaysia)
- Mr Galeboe Motlhajoe Co-Chair (Botswana)
- Dr Aut Karndacharuk Committee Member \*/Secretary D (Australia)
- Dr Amir Sobhani Webinar Coordinator (Australia)
- Prof Teresa Senserrick Committee Member (Australia)
- Mr Tendekayi Marapara Committee Member (New Zealand)
- Mr Tevoh Ndingwan Committee Member (Cameroon)
- Mr Mubashir Jan Bhat Committee Member (India)
- Mr Shaun Lennard Committee Member (Australia)
- Dr Rusdi Rusli Committee Member (Malaysia)
- Mr Sovann Kong Committee Member (Cambodia)
- Dr Navid Tahir Committee Member (Pakistan)

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK COMMITTEE

- Ms Melanie Suitor Chair
- Ms Kate McDougall Deputy Chair
- Dr Jaqueline Haupt Secretary
- Mr Philip Taylor Committee Member
- Mr David McTiernan Committee Member
- Ms Jeanine Foster Committee Member
- Mr Brett Williams Committee Member
- Mr Adam Mularczyk Committee Member
- Ms Katherine Celenza Committee Member
- Ms Andrea Hamilton-Vaughan Committee Member
- Ms Annie Peoples Committee Member \*

#### **EARLY CAREER NETWORK COMMITTEE**

- Dr Joanne Bennett Chair
- Dr Natalie Watson-Brown Deputy Chair &/Committee Member
- Mr Tendekayi Marapara Committee Member &/Deputy Chair 🗖
- Dr Verity Truelove Chair 🛠
- Ms Renata Gomez Secretary 🛠
- Dr Angus McKerral Committee Member
- Ms Karen Schoots Committee Member
- Dr Levi Anderson Committee Member
- Ms Maria Eugenia Keller Committee Member
- The late Dr Prasannah Prabhakharan Committee Member
- Dr Chen-Chun Ellie Shu Committee Member
- Dr Hayley McDonald Committee Member
- Dr Rachael Wynne Committee Member +
- Mr Tevoh Ndingwan Committee Member \*
- Ms Vivienne Gardiner Committee Member \*
- Mr Marcus Cosgrove Committee Member \*
- Mr Maatla Otsogile Committee Member 💠
- Dr Michelle Nicolls Committee Member +
- Dr Jennifer Rivera Committee Member \*

PAGE 21

## **ACRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

represents members who stepped down from roles during 2024;
represents members who began roles in 2024.

#### WOMEN IN ROAD SAFETY NETWORK COMMITTEE

- Dr Oleksandra Molloy Chair
- Ms Kathryn Collier Committee Member �/Deputy Chair □
- Ms Andrea Hamilton-Vaughan Committee Member \*/Events Coordinator
- Dr Tasha Prabhakar Committee Member \*/Secretary
- A/Prof Sjaan Koppel Committee Member
- Ms Philippa Robertson Committee Member
- Dr Hanna Watling Committee Member
- Dr Lisa Wundersitz Committee Member
- Ms Renata Gomez Committee Member
- Ms Teresa Williams Committee Member
- Ms Teresa Burnett Committee Member 💠
- Ms Gemma Dioni Deputy Chair 🛠
- Ms Fiona Frost Events Coordinator \*
- Ms Chris Harrison Committee Member \*
- Ms Tracey Norberg Committee Member \*
- Ms Nicola Hopman Committee Member \*
- Ms Annie Peoples Committee Member +

#### ROAD POLICING NETWORK COMMITTEE D

- A/Prof Lyndel Bates Chair D
- Dr Levi Anderson Committee Member 🗖
- Dr Rachael Mason Committee Member
- Mr Greg Casey Committee Member
- Ms Kasey Yates Committee Member
- Mr Craig Hoey Committee Member **D**
- Sr Sgt Tim Cumming Committee Member 🗖

#### THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the members who have volunteered their valuable time on our committees and through their advocacy work with the ACRS.

### **ACRS CORPORATE MEMBERS**

#### PLATINUM



Transport Accident Commission (TAC)

#### GOLD

SILVER



Transport for NSW

Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety (CARRS-Q) Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW (TNSW)

- Abley Limited
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- ARRB Group Ltd
- Austroads
- Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR)
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Department of State Growth (TAS)
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Monash University Accident Research Centre
- New Zealand Police

- Northern Beaches Council Transport Network
- SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Transport for NSW
- Transurban Group
- UNSW Transport and Road Safety Research Centre
- Victoria Department of Justice: Road Safety Camera Project
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police Force
- Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research (UWA)
- WSP New Zealand Limited



## ACRS CORPORATE MEMBERS

- 3M Australia
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- Altus Group
- Amy Gillett Foundation
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- Auckland Transport
- Australian Medical Association SA
- Austroads
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- Department of Transport & Main Roads
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- Department of Transport & Planning VIC -Safer Roads and Speed
- Department of Transport & Planning VIC -Vehicle and Motorcycle Policy

**PRO-BONO SUPPORT** 

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- Energy Queensland
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- Institute of Public Works Engineering Aust (IPWEA) NSW
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- Intelligent Training Solutions Pty Ltd
- Legacy Road Safety Initiative
- Mackie Research
- MAIC/UniSC Road Safety Research Collaboration
- Melton City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- Motor Accident Compensation Commission NT
- Motor Accident Insurance Commission
- Motor Accidents Insurance Board
- National Transport Commission
- NRMA Motoring & Services
- NSW Driver Trainers Association
- Pedestrian Council of Australia Ltd
- Performance Driving Australia
- Queenstown Lakes District Council

to our cause.

- Queensland Police Service
- RAA of SA Inc
  - RACQ
- RACV
- RACWA
- Road Safety Education Limited
- Roadcraft Driver Education
- Sensys Gatso Australia
- South Australia Police (SAPOL)
- Stantec New Zealand Ltd
- The George Institute
- Transport Canberra and City Services
- Transport Industries Skills Centre
- University of Canberra
- Urban Collection Limited
- Vivacity Labs

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partners, who've dedicated an enormous amount of effort

- WA Local Government Association (WALGA Roadwise)
- Wallis Social Research
- Western Australia Police Force Road
   Safety Commission

The ACRS would like to congratulate the winners of the following awards:

- ACRS Young Leader Oration Award: The late Dr Prasannah Prabhakharan
- ACRS Women in Road Safety Award: A/Prof Sjaan Koppel
- ACRS Fellowship Award: Eric Howard AM

ACRS 2024 AWARDS

ACRS Excellence in Road Safety Award: The George Institute for Global Health

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#### Australasian College of Road Safety 2024 Annual Report





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