

ACRS - ACT Chapter 2025 Report

Road Safety Annual General Meeting



CONTEXT

The ACT, as a small jurisdiction, has traditionally taken pride in its strong road safety performance. However, recent years have posed challenges, particularly with a spike in fatalities in 2022. Given the ACT's size, using fatality statistics alone to assess road safety can be misleading due to natural fluctuations. This underscores the importance of better data on serious crashes and other road conflict indicators. It is encouraging to see the Federal Government supporting improved data collection and sharing initiatives.

The ACT has a long history of fostering road safety research, initially through the NRMA Road Safety Trust and now via the ACT Government Road Safety Grants program. The ACT Chapter has played an integral role in these programs, with many members benefiting from grants and leveraging ACRS fellowship to develop, execute, and disseminate research. These programs have also benefited ACRS members beyond the Chapter, contributing to broader road safety advancements in the ACT and beyond.

The ACT does not have its own local government areas (LGAs), but it has long welcomed participation from surrounding LGA Road Safety Officers (RSOs). These officers have traditionally formed a key part of the Chapter's active membership. The creation of the Local Government Network (LGN) acknowledges the unique needs of LGA RSOs and may influence the future direction and membership dynamics of the ACT Chapter.

PRIORITIES

Over the past year, the ACT Chapter has been evaluating its capacity and priorities. These are closely linked, as the Chapter's activities depend on who attends meetings, participates in discussions, and engages with the fellowship.

With the emergence of the LGN, local government participation in the Chapter has evolved, prompting increased outreach to other sectors where the ACT can contribute significantly to road safety. These include industry associations and tertiary education institutions. Strengthening connections with these groups remains a key priority moving forward.

ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

During 2024/25, the Chapter has solidified its regular meeting schedule, now generously hosted at ACT Government offices. These meetings have been well attended and feature engaging discussions. A round table approach has been taken over recent meetings to identify current activities and issues around the membership. The diversity of interests of attendees has been a real strength of recent meetings with perspectives across heavy vehicle safety, vulnerable road users, young and older road user cohorts etc. and combining government, user group, practitioner, and academic frameworks.

A number of members have successfully secured **project funding** to advance road safety initiatives, demonstrating the impact of the Chapter's expertise and advocacy. The Chapter is currently shaping **submissions for the next round of ACT Road Safety Grants**, ensuring continued momentum in local road safety research and initiatives.

The Chapter has also been actively involved in national road safety discussions through **participation in Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety forums**, reinforcing the

importance of road safety at a federal level. Additionally, meetings with the **new ACT Minister for Road Safety** have provided valuable opportunities to advocate for stronger road safety policies and initiatives within the Territory.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Since late 2024, the Chapter has been exploring future initiatives. One key focus has been the **review of road safety education, training, and licensing processes** in the ACT. While this has long been a priority, we believe there are new opportunities for improvement.

We are also investigating the development of a **Road User Assessment Program (RUAP)**, inspired by ANCAP and iRAP vehicle and infrastructure rating systems. The feasibility and scope of this initiative require significant research, but we see great potential in using such a tool to shape policy and help stakeholders identify areas for improvement in road user EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND LICENSING.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The ACT Chapter thrives because of its dedicated members. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their significant contributions over the past year:

ACT CHAPTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **Rod Katz** – President
- **Jen Woods**
- **Lauchlan McIntosh AM**
- **Steve Lake**
- **Frances Stanford**
- **Kate Beck**
- **Amanda George**
- **Cecily Michaels**
- **Lesa O’Leary**
- **Meryl Hinge**
- **Leanne Woolfe**

We look forward to building on our successes in the coming year and continuing our work to improve road safety in the ACT and beyond.