

ACRS - Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety Briefing

Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
Tuesday 11 February 2025



The Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) hosted the Parliamentary Friends of Road Safety meeting at Parliament House, Canberra, on 11 February 2025. The event assessed Australia's road safety landscape, highlighting challenges and necessary actions to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

Llew O'Brien MP, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends Group of Road Safety, opened the event. ACRS CEO Dr Ingrid Johnston presented on Australia's historical leadership in road safety, citing key innovations such as seatbelt laws, random breath testing, speed cameras, and the Graduated Licensing Scheme. However, recent data shows progress has stalled, and Australia is not on track to meet its National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 targets.

The discussion underscored the need for stronger political commitment and a whole-of-government approach. Professor Narelle Haworth emphasised the importance of road design that prioritises safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Concerns were raised about the risks posed by new housing developments, which often prioritise convenience over road safety.

The concept of "What does safe look like?" was explored, with Vision Zero identified as the ultimate goal. Key strategies include better speed management, improved vehicle safety standards, stronger law enforcement, and enhanced public

education. The challenges of road safety in regional areas were also highlighted, with calls for increased funding for rural road upgrades to address high fatality rates.

Dr John Crozier presented on the importance of crash investigations, vehicle safety, and leadership. He advocated for legislating No-Blame Investigations to improve data collection and inform policy decisions. A dedicated statutory body for road safety investigations was proposed, alongside goals for vehicle safety improvements, such as ensuring at least 25% of the light vehicle fleet has a 5-star ANCAP rating by 2030.

The event concluded with a call to action: Australia must strengthen accountability in road safety governance, increase investment in safer infrastructure, expand data-driven interventions, and prioritise regional road safety. While Australia has a strong road safety history, urgent action is needed to prevent further loss of life.

In attendance at the event were the following Members of Parliament: Scott Buckholz, Dr Mike Freeland, Llew O'Brien, Tony Pasin, Rowan Ramsey, and Andrew Willcox; and Senators Catryna Bilyk, Matt Canavan, Raff Ciccone, Helen Polley and Glenn Sterle.

ACRS thanks presenters Professor Narelle Haworth and Dr John Crozier, Co-Chairs Senator Glenn Sterle and Llew O'Brien MP, and all ACRS members for their support and participation.



Parliament of Australia

PF of Road Safety Briefing



Private Area

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