

National Road Safety Research Framework

PREAMBLE

Purpose

This National Road Safety Research Framework (the Framework) has been developed with the goal of ensuring high quality, sustainable research and evaluation activities that can support an evidence-based approach to road safety which in turn can lead to the lowest rates of road trauma in the world.

The need for a Research Framework:

Stakeholders in the road safety sector have indicated that research efforts are somewhat fragmented and have suggested that opportunities exist to improve the coordination and strategic direction of Australian research funding to complement the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (National Strategy).

The idea to develop a National Road Safety Research Framework came about after discussions held by the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) National Executive Committee, many of whom are directors of major road safety research institutions. Subsequent consultation with National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) at a senior level led to the agreement to progress this initiative.

Reducing road trauma is a preventive activity for health care, with the potential to significantly relieve financial and social pressure on our public health system.

Target audience

The Framework is relevant to any individual or organisation undertaking research (or planning to undertake research) within the road safety sector. A 'mud map' of key stakeholders in the road safety sector is provided at [Attachment A](#). The Framework will be monitored and updated on an annual basis.

Alignment with existing road safety initiatives and strategies

The Framework complements and supports existing state/territory, national and international road safety initiatives and strategies. These include but are not restricted to:

1. The National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020
http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/national_road_safety_strategy/index.aspx

The National Road Safety Strategy represents the commitment of federal, state and territory governments to an agreed set of national road safety goals, objectives and action priorities. Its overarching aim is that no person should be killed or seriously injured on Australia's roads.

2. The United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020
http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/en/

In May 2010, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the period 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with a goal to stabilise and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing activities conducted at the national, regional and global levels. The United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 underpins Australia's National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020.

3. National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016
http://www.austroroads.com.au/abc/images/pdf/Australian_National_Cycling_Strategy_2011-16.pdf

The National Cycling Strategy represents the commitment and support of governments and non-government organisations across the country and sets out a series of actions that will help to deliver its overarching vision to double the number of people cycling in Australia over the next five years. It builds on the 2005-2010 Strategy and identifies a series of actions to help more people get on their bikes, and start riding for a better life.

4. Jurisdiction Strategies

Specific jurisdictions have developed road safety strategies for the purpose of establishing the direction of road safety action over a specified period, usually the next decade. These strategies set key objectives and initiatives and typically support the delivery of the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020.

Some examples of jurisdictional road safety strategies include:

- The New South Wales Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/downloads/road_safety_strategy.pdf
- Victoria's Road Safety Strategy 2013-2022
<http://www.roadsafety.vic.gov.au/strategy/victoria-s-road-safety-strategy-2013-2022.html>
- ACT Road Safety Strategy and Action Plans
http://www.justice.act.gov.au/safety_and_emergency/road_safety/act_road_safety_strategy_and_action_plans
- South Australia's Road Safety Strategy 2020
<http://dpti.sa.gov.au/towardszerotogether/article?item=17>
<http://dpti.sa.gov.au/towardszerotogether/article?item=20>
- Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2007-2016
http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/16222/Road_Safety_Strategy_Final_28_May.pdf
http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/60348/TRSS_Second_Action_plan_2011-13_final_210611_print_copy.pdf
- Towards Zero is Western Australia's road safety strategy for 2008-2020
<http://ors.wa.gov.au/Towards-Zero.aspx>

Background

In February 2013, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) hosted a workshop aimed at developing a national road safety research strategy. Forty-five stakeholders from around Australia including researchers, policy makers, lobbyists, health professionals, economists and scientists, met to discuss a research strategy, determining national research priorities in line with the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 and the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. The list of attendees is provided at [Attachment B](#) and also forms the list of organisations NHMRC contacted during consultation on this Framework.

The main outcome of the workshop included consensus on the need for a research framework that could be monitored and updated on an annual basis – possibly at the annual ACRS conference. The core of the Framework was discussed by attendees, and a drafting group representative of the variety of stakeholders was established to further develop the Framework and advise on its consultation requirements. With secretariat support from NHMRC, the drafting group met several times via teleconference and discussed the required content of the Framework. The drafting group then split into sub-groups to draft the various sections of the Framework, which have been brought together below. The list of drafting group members is provided at [Attachment C](#).

What has been learnt from past research?

The road safety sector has achieved success over the past years, and research has played a major role in this. Research success stories that demonstrate the value of research include, but are not limited to the introduction of compulsory seat belt wearing and child restraints, the evolution of speed camera enforcement, and the introduction of random breath testing.

Despite the clear direction provided by the United Nations and the Australian National Strategy, there are still major challenges facing research. It is important to optimise the existing research effort and encourage better utilisation and translation of that research.

The Framework

1. Vision

High quality, sustainable research supporting an evidence-based approach to road safety leading to the lowest rates of road trauma in the world.

2. General Principles

Road safety research should:

- Align with the National Road Safety Research Framework Vision,
- Complement and support key road safety initiatives such as the National Road Safety Strategy and those of the Australian States and Territories,
- Engage with policy makers, industry stakeholders and the wider community to ensure translation,
- Complement and support international road safety initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Action and ISO39001 programs,
- Create and encourage a cooperative road safety research effort at a national and international level,
- Seek opportunities to link with research and development efforts beyond the traditional road safety domain,
- Commit to monitoring existing road safety activities and evaluating new initiatives,
- Contribute to the improvement of quality of, and access to, data systems that support road safety research efforts, and
- Contribute to capacity building to ensure the sustainability and diversity of road safety research by developing researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

3. Goals

Road safety research that is:

1. Progressive, innovative, responsive and relevant to the road safety needs of Australia.
2. Nationally coordinated and integrated with strategies and programs across jurisdictions, community sectors and other related areas.
3. Based on the best available information sources, research methodologies and analytical techniques.
4. Prioritised with emerging issues considered.
5. Based on robust peer review practice
6. Adequately resourced in terms of expertise, management and funding in order to achieve best quality research that is value for money.
7. Communicated promptly, disseminated widely, made publicly available and promoted to encourage translation into policy and practice.

4. Strategies and actions

Goal One: Road safety research that is progressive, innovative, responsive and relevant to the road safety needs of Australia.

Strategies:

- i. Encourage research programs to be progressive, proactive and innovative
- ii. Ensure the research program is responsive to current and evolving road safety needs
- iii. Establish and promote longer term research

Actions and activities

- i. Establish and maintain a nationally representative group to be responsible for ongoing monitoring of the Framework
- ii. Review the Framework to determine the issues that need to be addressed
- iii. Allocate resources to exploratory and higher risk research activities
- iv. Ensure priority setting involves a longer term view

Goal Two: Road safety research that is nationally coordinated and integrated with strategies and programs across jurisdictions, other community sectors and other related areas.

Strategies:

- i. Ensure that road safety research programs in all jurisdictions are shared nationally
- ii. Ensure that road safety research programs are coordinated and integrated with programs in other sectors

Actions and activities

- i. Establish a mechanism for scanning research across jurisdictions in order to reduce duplication of effort and to encourage collaboration between researchers and between jurisdictions
- ii. Establish mechanisms for identification of research activities relevant to road safety that are occurring in other areas/sectors in order to encourage innovation

Goal Three: Road safety research that is based on the best available information sources, research methodologies and analytical techniques.

Strategies:

- i. Ensure data used are of high quality and appropriate scope
- ii. Ensure adequate access to and compatibility between sources of information relevant to road safety
- iii. Encourage ongoing enhancement of research methodologies

Actions and activities

- i. Promote adoption of common data formats and databases of road safety-related information
- ii. Promote innovative use of databases to improve road safety information including data linkage

Goal Four: Road safety research that has priorities and emerging issues set in the most effective way.

Strategies:

- i. Establish a robust process for determining road safety research priorities

Actions and activities

- i. Establish mechanisms for ongoing review of research priorities and the priority-setting process

Goal Five: Road safety research that is based on robust peer review practice

Strategies:

- i. Encourage independent review and evaluation of research
- ii. Encourage involvement and build expertise in peer review

Actions and activities

- i. Develop mechanisms for independent review and evaluation of road safety research conducted by research institutes and other bodies.
- ii. Promote involvement of road safety professionals, including researchers and practitioners in the peer review process.

Goal Six: Road safety research that is adequately resourced in terms of expertise, management and funding in order to achieve best quality research that is value for money.

Strategies:

- i. Create an effective capacity building program for the training, development and transfer of road safety research expertise
- ii. Promote adequate funding for research and development at national and state levels
- iii. Develop an approach for considering value for money for research in road safety

Actions and activities

- i. Promote the training and development of road safety researchers through introduction of research scholarships for road safety research
- ii. Encourage exchange of researchers between jurisdictions and organisations
- iii. Promote the concept of allocating part of government enforcement revenue and third party insurance revenue to research and development
- iv. Establish mechanisms for review of value for money for research

Goal Seven: Road safety research that is communicated promptly, disseminated widely, made publicly available and promoted to encourage translation into policy and practice¹.

Strategies:

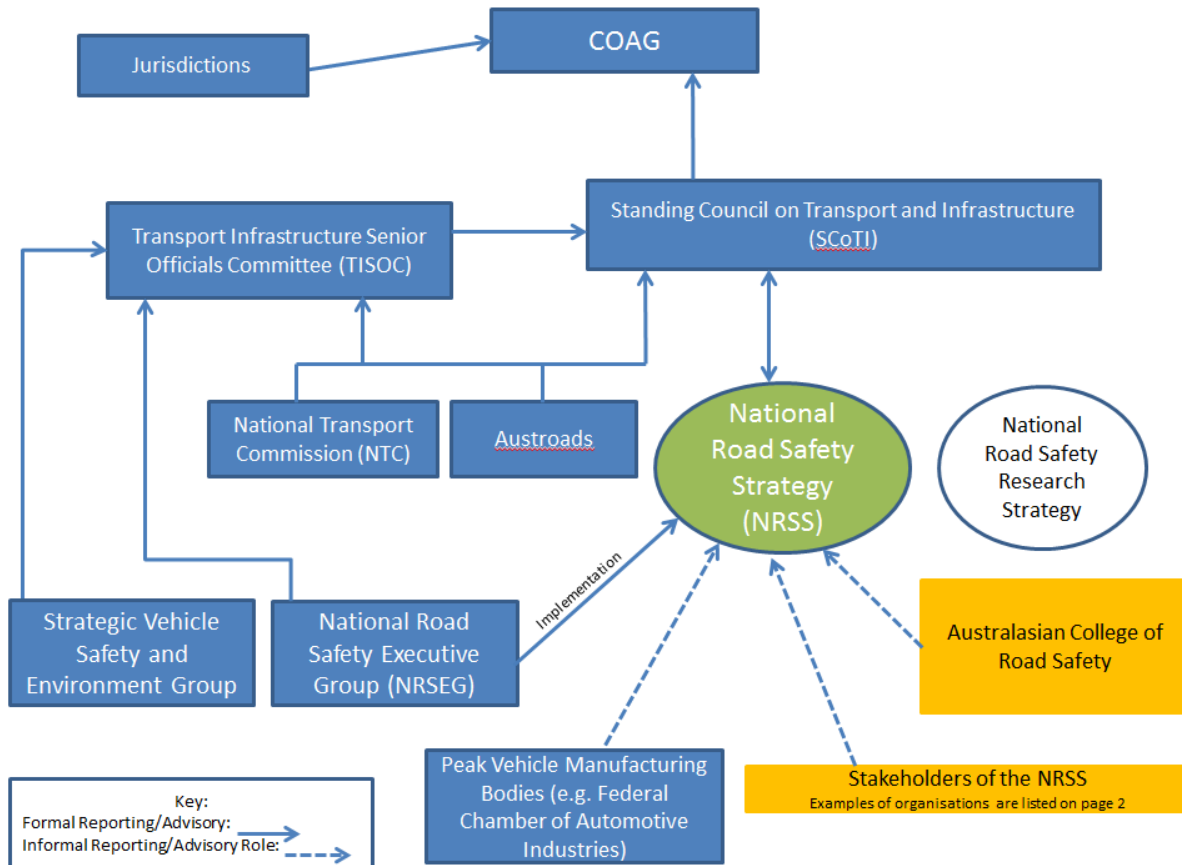
- i. Ensure that research outcomes are shared publicly and promoted
- ii. Ensure timely and prompt reporting of research outcomes
- iii. Create an effective program for promotion of research and development outcomes
- iv. Facilitate the translation of research into policy and practice

Actions and activities

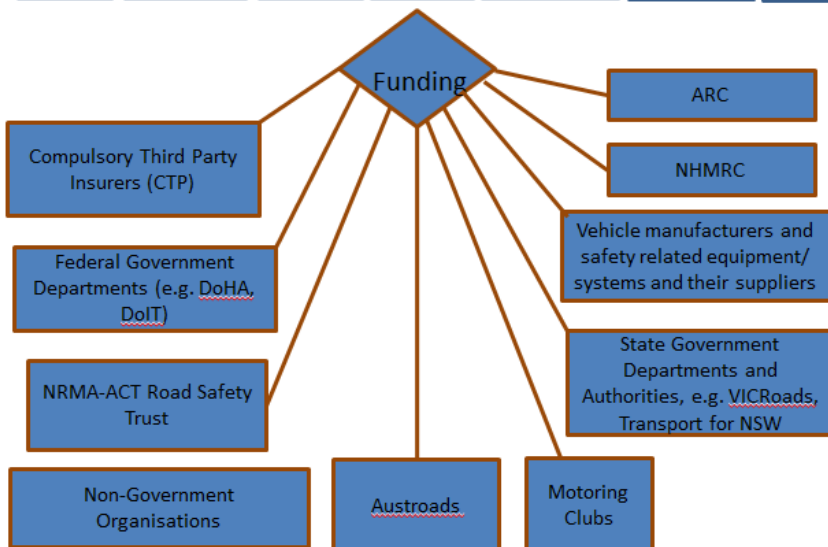
- i. Encourage funding agencies to include in research contracts a right to publish after a reasonable period of time
- ii. Encourage all agencies to promptly circulate relevant research outcomes to stakeholders and other agencies
- iii. Encourage the production and dissemination of reports in a form suitable for non-technical readers and short summaries of reports.

¹ Please note, in some circumstances research needs of government agencies may require that research is not made publicly available.

Attachment A: Road Safety Stakeholder Mud Map



Research centres



- Examples of stakeholders of the NRSS:**
- Australian Local Government Association, Transport Accident Commission (TAC – VIC), Motor Accident Commission (MAC-SA), Australian Automobile Association, Truck Safe, Australian Trucking Association (ATA), Roads Australia, Pedestrian and Cycling Councils, Australian Motorcycle Council, Australasian Fleet Management Association (AFMA), Kidsafe, Australian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP), Enforcement agencies (police, ambulance), Medical agencies (AMA, Royal Aust. College of Surgeons), Vehicle manufacturers and their suppliers, Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANPAA), Society of Automotive Engineers, Engineers Australia, Insurers, fleet managers, companies.

Attachment B: Road safety workshop attendees

Amy Gillett Foundation
Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA)
Australasian College of Road Safety
Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP)
Australian Automobile Association
Australian Motorcycle Council
Australian Research Council (ARC)
Australian Road Research Board (ARRB)
Austrroads - Road Safety Taskforce & representing Qld Transport & Main Roads
Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety Queensland (CARRS-Q), Queensland University of Technology
Centre for Automotive Safety Research, University of Adelaide
Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine
Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DoIT)
Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (SA)
Edith Cowan University
Foundation of Alcohol Research and Education
IAG Research Centre
Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC)
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
National Transport Commission
Neuroscience Research Australia, University of New South Wales
NRMA Motoring and Services
NSW Motor Accidents Authority
Pedestrian Council of Australia
Queensland Motor Accident Insurance Commission
Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV)
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
SA Motor Accident Commission
Sapere Research Group Limited
St John's Ambulance
The George Institute, University of Sydney
Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy (WA) Road Safety Council for the Office of Road Safety
Transport and Road Safety Research Centre (TARS), University of New South Wales
Transport for NSW
Vic Roads
Victorian Transport Accident Commission

Attachment C: Drafting Group members

Member	Organisation
Ann Williamson	Transport and Road Safety Research, UNSW
Barry Watson	Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety, QUT
Lauchlan McIntosh	Australasian College of Road Safety
Jeremy Woolley	Centre for Automotive Safety Research, University of Adelaide
Judith Charlton	Monash University Accident Research Centre
Julian Lyngcoln	Vic Roads
Michael Tziotis	Australian Road Research Board
Shaun Lennard	Australian Motorcycle Council