



MEDIA RELEASE

Australasian College of Road Safety

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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Belt our kids in on high-speed school buses

The Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) today called for urgent action to progressively fit seatbelts on new and replacement school buses on country high-speed routes.

Although it is well known that seatbelts save lives, they are currently not in use in school buses on high-speed roads in the two most populous states in Australia, Victoria and NSW.

"Protecting our children, our most vulnerable road user group, is vital," said ACRS President Mr Lauchlan McIntosh.

High speed school buses include those that travel on single lane country roads, a place where children are particularly at risk because these areas have less medical resources to quickly and adequately handle a mass casualty event.

The most recent report by the NSW School Bus Safety Community Advisory Committee recommends that we start the process of progressively fitting new and replacement country school buses with seatbelts as they come into service.

The College strongly endorses this outcome.

"We have over 2 million school children in Australia, and with school about to start up again this issue should be at the top of the agenda for politicians".

ACRS is the regions peak membership association for road safety professionals and members of the public who are focussed on saving lives and serious injuries on our roads.

To find further information about the College please view the ACRS Website at acrs.org.au. ACRS policies, including the policy on school buses, can be viewed at: acrs.org.au/about-us/policies/.

Contact: Lauchlan McIntosh, ACRS National President Mobile: 0418 424 886
 David Healy, ACRS Co Vice-President Mobile: 0418 558 678