



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Office of Road Safety: Update Eleven – July 2020

National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 – Update on Consultation

The new National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, (the Strategy) will set the direction of our road safety focus for the next decade with vision zero as a long-term objective. It will be strategic in its outlook, addressing critical priorities underpinned by safe systems.

The priorities of the Strategy originate from national road crash data, and will be addressed through evidence based risk mitigation methods. The Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) asked the Office of Road Safety to work closely with the states, territories, local government, Austroads and other TIC bodies to develop detailed policy priorities, milestones and targets for the new Strategy. The Office of Road Safety has been working as part of a cross-jurisdictional Working Group to identify the priority areas for the new Strategy, to respond to our greatest road safety challenges over the next decade.

Consultation has commenced with stakeholders, including road safety organisations on the proposed priorities. It will inform the development of the Strategy, our focus over the next decade and support the development of the first action plan. The targeted consultation represents all the major road user groups and road safety advocates, from vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, to heavy vehicle organisations, road safety researchers and national road safety advocates.

As the strategy is developed further, there are anticipated to be further opportunities for consultation.

For more information on the NRSS, please visit: www.roadsafety.gov.au/

Investing in reducing fatal and serious injuries

Thirteen projects aimed at reducing road fatalities will share in \$2 million over the next four years through Round One of the Australian Government's Road Safety Innovation Fund.

One of the successful projects is the deployment and evaluation of 'smart' school zone systems by Sage Automation. This project will conduct research and testing of technologies at school pedestrian crossings to ensure vulnerable road users scooting, skating, riding and walking are protected by ensuring drivers are given improved situational awareness of children present, and promote the desired behaviour of slowing down.

The system will test pedestrian activity and vehicle speeds to provide feedback to approaching motorists to improve compliance with the speed limit. The way it is intended to work is for smart school zone signs to receive signals from strategically placed bollards fitted with ultrasonic sensors that can detect the presence of pedestrians in the vicinity of the school zone. The array of sensors will trigger conditional feedback to motorists. This project has the potential for wider application, and to inform understanding around the efficacy of variable speed limit reductions in response to hazards.

Round 2 of the Road Safety Innovation Fund is expected to open in late 2020. For more information on the Office of Road Safety's programs, visit: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/programs.

Road Safety Data

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics has released its [June 2020 Fatality Figures](#). There were a total of 78 road deaths during the month of June 2020. The current figure is 16.7 per cent lower than the average for June over the previous five years.

Modernisation of the Disability Standards for Public Transport

The National Accessible Transport Taskforce (the Taskforce), jointly led by the Australian Government and Queensland, is driving the reform and modernisation of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards). The Transport Standards set out the obligations of public transport operators and providers under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The guiding principles for the reform of the Transport Standards, as approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council, are that: people with disability have a right to public transport; accessibility is a service, not an exercise in compliance; solutions should meet the service needs of all stakeholders and be developed through co-design; and reforms should strive for certainty.

The Taskforce anticipates that people with disability, public transport operators and providers and other interested stakeholders, will have the opportunity to contribute to the reforms in early 2021. The Taskforce is mindful that the current COVID-19 situation is likely to have an impact on the format and timing of consultations. The Taskforce will continue to monitor the situation and advise of any changes to the process.

For further information on the reform of the Transport Standards, visit: www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/disabilities/reform/index.aspx

Safety of transport workers and public transport patrons during COVID-19

The Australian Government has taken action to ensure the safety of transport workers and public transport patrons through the COVID-19 pandemic. Working closely with states and territories, regulators and industry representatives, the department gained the endorsement of the Australian Health Protection Principals Committee and the National Cabinet to the following guidance:

- An exemption allowing truck drivers to continue to access roadhouses and rest stops to meet their legislated fatigue requirements. For further detail see: www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/files/non-essential-services-exemption-rest-stop-facilities.pdf
- Principles for use of public transport for operators and passengers during COVID-19. For further detail see: www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/files/COVID19_public_transport_principles_29052020.pdf

National Injury Prevention Strategy

The Office of Road Safety is working across Government to ensure national consistency in injury prevention. The Department of Health has engaged The George Institute for Global Health to lead the development of a National Injury Prevention Strategy 2020-2030. The Strategy aims to create a national focus on injuries and their prevention.

Injuries are the leading cause of death to those aged 1-44 years, and are responsible for approximately 9 per cent of the total burden of disease in Australia. Injuries from road transport have been identified as one of the Strategy's proposed priorities.

Jessica Hall, First Assistant Secretary, COVID Surface Transport Policy Division has joined the Strategy's expert advisory group to provide feedback and advice and to ensure alignment with the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

More information on the National Injury Prevention Strategy can be found by visiting: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-injury-prevention-strategy-2020-2030-0#goals-of-the-strategy

Nominations open for Australasian College of Road Safety Awards 2020

Nominations are now open for the Australasian College of Road Safety Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate exemplary projects and people who help to save lives and reduce injuries on our roads.

The ceremony will take place in Sydney on 15 November 2020 during [National Road Safety Week](#). Nominations close on 1 September 2020. For more details on how to nominate, visit: www.theaustralasianroadsafetyawards.com.au/

Office of Road Safety – One year on

July marks one year since the Office of Road Safety was established on 1 July 2019. The Office was established to provide leadership, coordination and advocacy for improving national road safety outcomes. Since our establishment, some of our achievements are:

- Securing a \$500 million program for Targeted Road Safety Works as part of the infrastructure stimulus package, including rollout of rumble strips, lighting, shoulder widening and installation of safety barriers;
- Establishing the Cross-Jurisdictional Working Group on Road Safety in collaboration with states and territories to drive development of the new National Road Safety Strategy;
- Commencing targeted consultation with over 60 organisations on the Transport and Infrastructure Council's agreed priorities for the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, representing all the major road user groups and road safety advocates;
- Applying a Social Model approach to road safety, recognising that road safety is not solely a transport problem, and that development of road safety solutions must include buy-in from health, education, justice and finance as well as investing in community, organisational, interpersonal and individual responses;
- Developing interactive road safety data dashboards for road deaths, random breath testing, roadside drug testing and local government areas with zero road deaths;
- Administering Round One of the \$12 million Road Safety Innovation Fund, Round One of the \$8 million Driver Reviver Upgrades Program and the \$4 million Road Safety Awareness and Enablers Fund;
- Providing \$1.8 million to the Australian Road Safety Foundation to develop the Digital Road Safety Passport;
- Providing \$6.6 million funding to ANCAP over five years;
- Providing \$8 million to extend the Keys2Drive program to 30 June 2023;

- Providing \$22 million over four years to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to continue the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiatives (HVSIs) program, which funds practical initiatives to improve the safety of the heavy vehicle industry; and
- Hosting Ministerial roundtables focusing on key stakeholders and local government issues.

For more information about the Office of Road Safety, visit: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/

Getting in touch

If you wish to get in touch with the Office of Road Safety please email us;

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