



Media Release

Wednesday 1 January 2014

Fewer road fatalities in 2013

Western Australia's road toll for 2013 is likely to be the equal-lowest the State has seen since the 1960s.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the preliminary road toll shows 163 fatalities recorded from 1 January to 31 December 2013 – one above 2005 and lower than the 182 fatalities recorded in 2012.

“Any life lost on our roads is one too many. Western Australia has had the worst road fatality rate of any Australian State for a number of years,” Mr Golsby said.

Based on Western Australia's population count of 2,517,000 in June this year, the 163 fatalities would amount to a fatality rate of approximately 6.4 per 100,000 persons – the lowest rate Western Australia has seen since 1950.

The lower road toll can be attributed to a reduction in deaths on regional roads – down from 93 in 2012 to 73 in 2013.

However, due to population differences, the rate of road fatalities in regional WA still remains unacceptably high at approximately 14 per 100,000 population compared to approximately five per 100,000 population for the metropolitan area.

“Western Australia's fatality rate has been dropping since the start of 2011, and while this year appears to be a continuation of that trend, it must be put into context as WA's fatality rate is still higher than the national average.

“Now is not the time to be complacent. As a community, we need to ensure we do everything we can to help continue to bring Western Australia's road fatality rate down.”

Double demerits are still in place until midnight on Sunday 5 January and the RAC urges everyone to please drive safely.

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