



Media Release

Friday 24 January 2014

No time for complacency this long weekend

The RAC is urging all road users to not become complacent and to keep road safety front of mind this long weekend.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said that in 2013 Western Australia experienced, on average, one road fatality nearly every two days.

“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.

“WA’s fatality rate is approximately 6.4 per 100,000 persons, which is still higher than the national rate.

“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.”

Driver inattention has emerged as a major factor in deaths and serious injuries on Western Australia’s roads.

A recent RAC survey of 17-19 year old drivers revealed 20 per cent check their social media while driving and more than 40 per cent send texts or speak on their phone while driving.

Initial tests with the RAC’s Attention Powered Car showed that using Facebook while driving resulted in a 43 per cent drop in attention levels, on average.

“Mobile phone use while driving is becoming an increasing problem. In 2009, the RAC called for mobile phone offences to be included in double demerits periods,” Mr Golsby said.

The RAC welcomes the Minister for Police and Road Safety, Hon Liza Harvey, seeking advice on additional penalties to target dangerous behaviour on our roads. The RAC would also welcome the timeframe for this advice, and timeline for any future changes being confirmed.

Double demerits are in force for the Australia Day long weekend.

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