



# Media Release

Wednesday 10 September 2014

## RAC reveals safest used cars for 2014

The release of the RAC's 2014 Used Car Safety Ratings guide has shown that well-informed used car buyers do not have to compromise vehicle safety, but there are still many vehicles which cannot be recommended for buyers who prioritise safety.

RAC Manager Vehicles and Fuels Alex Forrest said there is still a wide variety of safety ratings for used vehicles, and that this showed how important the Used Car Safety Ratings guide was when searching for a safe second hand vehicle.

"These ratings provide independent advice on which second hand vehicle models provide better protection in a crash, not only for occupants, but for all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists," Mr Forrest said.

"This information is invaluable for mums and dads looking to purchase a vehicle for their child, or people looking to upgrade or buy a second car.

"This year's results show us that a large number of top rating vehicles are available on the second-hand market for under \$10,000, so safety doesn't have to be compromised by price."

A record half of the 227 second-hand vehicles listed in the 2014 Used Car Safety Ratings guide scored an Excellent or Good rating for driver protection in a crash.

Cars which are awarded the coveted *Safe Pick* rating – and are deemed the best of the best – must be fitted with Electronic Stability Control while also performing well in protecting occupants and other road users.

Only 15% of vehicles earned the *Safe Pick* recognition, meaning they also provided good protection for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists in the event of a crash.

"Consumers who buy a used car which doesn't rate well will considerably increase their risk of serious injury if they are involved in a crash."

Used Car Safety Ratings is an accurate guide of the safety of used cars, and is calculated by Monash University's Accident Research Centre (MUARC) and available free of charge from the RAC.

The Used Car Safety Ratings are calculated using data from more than seven million Australian and New Zealand crashes from 1987 – 2012. They cover the most popular passenger and light commercial vehicles from about five to 20 years old – the average lifetime of a used vehicle.

**To help spread the word about safer vehicles and celebrate RAC Auto Service's 10 Year Anniversary, the RAC is offering free vehicle safety checks for RAC members between 8 September to 12 September.**

**Members can drop into any of the nine centres during between 10am and 2pm to have their car's vital signs checked.**

[rac.com.au/media](http://rac.com.au/media)

VEHICLE	PRICE	Safety Rating
<b>Small cars</b>		
Honda Civic 2006-2011	From \$8,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Subaru Impreza 2007-2011	From \$10,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Holden Cruze 2009-2012	From \$10,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
<b>Medium cars</b>		
Mazda 6 2002-2007	From \$7,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Toyota Camry 2006-2011	From \$8,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
<b>Large cars</b>		
Ford Falcon FG 2008-2011	From \$7,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Nissan Maxima 2006-2009	From \$9,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Holden Statesman/Caprice	From \$8,500	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
<b>Medium SUVs</b>		
Holden Captiva CG	From \$13,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>
Nissan Pathfinder	From \$14,000	5 stars – <i>Safe Pick</i>

**Media contact Kylie Bonkowski: 0401 703 719**