

# Media Release

**Sunday 23 November 2014**

## **New survey highlights young drivers at risk**

The RAC's 2014 *free2go* Driver Survey has revealed that while young drivers in Western Australia recognise risky behaviour on the roads, they still engage in these behaviours while driving.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the annual survey provided an insight into the driving behaviour and attitudes of young drivers.

"The results highlight a disconnect between young drivers' understanding of road safety and their own behaviour," Mr Golsby said.

"Last year, one person died on WA roads nearly every two days. Distractions and inattention continue to be a problem for young drivers, with 62% admitting to being distracted when having a conversation with a passenger – a similar result to last year.

"Novice drivers are among the most vulnerable groups on our roads and are overrepresented in the crash statistics. In 2013, 17-19 year olds made up 4% of the WA population yet were 6% of road fatalities. Too many young people are dying on our roads.

"As many young drivers prepare to head away for Leavers' Week, it's an important reminder for them to be aware of their behaviour both as drivers and passengers, and the consequences that can come with it."

The survey of more than 430 drivers aged 17-20 provided an insight into their driving behaviour and attitudes.

The survey found:

- 15% of respondents exaggerated their log book entries
- 85% rated their own driving as either good or excellent
- 74% rated their driving as either better or much better than their peers, only 2% thought they were worse than their peers
- 65% thought their age group (16-25) was responsible for the most crashes on the road
- 42% have seen their parents use a mobile phone while driving
- 73% have seen their parents speed!
- 25% have seen their parents drive after drinking
- 9% have seen their parents run a red light
- 7% have seen their parents check social media while driving
- 41% speed by more than 10 km/h
- 42% show road rage to other motorists
- 62% drive while fatigued
- 16% check social media while driving

- 15% don't give way to pedestrians
- 19% take photos while driving

To encourage young drivers to take a break on what could be their first long drive, RAC will be hosting a Leavers' Pitstop at the Dorsett Road rest stop along Forrest Highway between 10 am – 4pm on Monday 24 November.

Leavers will enjoy free mechanical checks from our RAC Patrols to help make sure their car is in working order, free snacks, soft drink, giveaways and a free bouncy castle to let off some energy before continuing on the drive.

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