



Media Release

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Safety the best present this year

With just one week until Christmas, RAC is asking Western Australians to consider how they will stay safe on the roads this festive season.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said tragically this year's fatality count is already significantly worse than at the same time last year.

"Last year, one person on average died on Western Australian roads nearly every two days," Mr Golsby said.

"So far this year, 180 lives have been lost on Western Australian roads, which is already 27 more deaths than at the same time last year."

In the lead-up to Christmas, RAC says preparation is key to having a good time without putting yourself or others in danger.

"While alcohol affects decision-making, reaction times, speed and distance judgements, it also impacts on concentration and perception, balance and alertness. It can give a driver a false sense of confidence, which may encourage risk taking.

"RAC is asking people to look after their mates and family members. Don't let people close to you drive if they're under the influence. Planning ahead, wearing your seatbelt and nominating a skipper will mean you and your loved ones can enjoy Christmas together this year."

Sadly, for hundreds of families across Western Australia, this Christmas won't be a time of celebration.

WA Police statistics show in 2013, 60% of fatal crashes were attributed to deliberate driver choices such as alcohol, speed, drugs, reckless or careless behaviour, where a cause had been determined.

Alcohol, speeding and drugs alone made up 41% of all crashes and cost the WA community in excess of \$235 million each year. Meantime, almost half of all fatalities this year and last year occurred in regional WA.

Did you know:

- With a BAC of 0.05 the risk of being involved in a crash doubles.
- With a BAC of 0.08 you are 7 times more likely to crash.
- With a BAC of 0.15 you are 25 times more likely to crash.

"If WA's fatality rate came down to the national average, more than 45 lives could be saved each year – that's 450 Western Australians over the next decade. Please stay safe this Christmas by designating a skipper and planning ahead."

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