



Media Release

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More road fatalities in 2014

Western Australia's road safety record has taken a step backward, with 2014's road toll the highest it's been in four years.

RAC Senior Manager Media and Government Relations, Liz Carey, said the preliminary count shows 184 fatalities were recorded from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

"2014 was a bad year on WA roads, and our State continues to perform worse than the national fatality rate," Ms Carey said.

Based on Western Australia's population count of 2.6 million in June this year, WA's fatality rate equates to approximately 7.1 deaths per 100,000 persons.

To place this in an Australian context, the national rate is approximately 5, while Victoria and NSW have each ended 2014 with rates near 4.5.

"If WA matched these other two Australian States, the 2014 road toll would be around 116, meaning 68 Western Australians would still be alive.

"In 1990 and 1991 WA's fatality rate was better than the national average, and this is something we need to get back to."

The higher road toll is largely attributable to an increase in deaths on regional roads – up from 73 in 2013 to 102 in 2014.

"Road fatalities in regional WA remain unacceptably high. Last year, the fatality rate in the Wheatbelt was five times higher than the State rate.

"However the problem is not just a regional one, with 82 people dying on metropolitan roads last year."

While there was no significant change to the overall metropolitan count, there was an increase in the number of cyclist and motorcyclist fatalities.

"This challenges the myth that regional drivers are mainly to blame for the four year high, and shows that WA needs a new state-wide approach. It's time to look at what the leading States are doing and learn from them.

"Western Australia's fatality rate has been dropping since the start of 2011, so it's really disappointing to see the State going backward, especially when Victoria and New South Wales are making inroads.

"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 4 January and the RAC urges everyone to please drive safely.

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