



Media Release

Wednesday 18 February 2015

RAC welcomes alcohol interlocks law

The RAC has welcomed the announcement overnight that the new alcohol interlocks Bill has passed both Houses of WA Parliament.

The law means devices will be installed in the vehicles of repeat drink drivers and drivers found with a BAC 0.15 and above.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said an alcohol interlock program for WA has been on the agenda since 2003.

“In 2013, alcohol, along with speed and drugs accounted for 41% of deaths on our roads,” Mr Golsby said.

“Many Australian states and territories have been using the alcohol devices for a number of years with some positive results. It’s encouraging to see this legislation will now be law in Western Australia.”

According to an RAC survey, more than nine in 10 RAC members said they felt drink driving is an issue of high priority in WA and 62% believed the current penalties for drink driving were not severe enough.

“Alcohol interlocks are a good measure to alter behaviour while they are fitted but we’d like to see an additional strategy for long-term behaviour change that looks at intervention, education and rehabilitation for repeat drink drivers.

“These programs can specifically deal with addressing repeat offenders’ drink driving behaviours to help prevent them reoffending once the interlock has been removed.

“Our member survey showed 92% of respondents indicated support for compulsory driver education programs for repeat drink drivers.”

RAC congratulated the State Government for its commitment to progressing this important piece of legislation and improving the safety of all road users.

Media contact: Kylie Bonkowski 0401 703 719