



Media Release

Wednesday 24 June 2015

Country Week focuses on road safety

RAC's Community Education team is supporting Country Week next week to educate Mid-West Gascoyne and Wheatbelt students and young drivers about staying safe on the roads.

RAC Senior Manager Media and Government Relations Liz Carey said RAC is supporting Country Week to promote road safety to teenagers who are about to get their licence.

"Each year, our Community Education team support events such as Country Week to deliver road safety messages to Year 10 to 12 students," Ms Carey said.

"Last year, 184 died on Western Australian roads and six of those were in the Mid-West region. The Wheatbelt had the worst fatality rate of 26 loved ones killed. That's someone killed every fortnight."

In 2014, drivers aged 17 to 24 accounted for 22 per cent of all WA road fatalities despite only making up 12 per cent of the population and RAC's 2014 young driver survey showed 62 per cent of respondents used their phone while driving.

"These results reinforce the need to educate young drivers about safe driving and Country Week is an effective platform to talk about the causes and consequences of road crashes before they start driving."

Students from Central Midlands SHS, Merredin College, Narrogin SHS, Northam SHS, WACoA Cunderdin, WACoA Narrogin, Carnarvon Community College, Geraldton Grammar and Geraldton Senior College will convene in Perth to participate in basketball, dance, AFL football, hockey, netball, soccer, touch rugby and volleyball.

RAC is also sponsoring the debating league where road safety issues such as inattention, alcohol, drugs and reckless behaviour will be fiercely contested for the winning trophies and \$500 school prize.

Over by the RAC marquee, students will be able to access free Wi-Fi and meet the [Elephant in the Wheatbelt](#), a life-sized African elephant sculpture made out of wrecked cars who's encouraging discussion about the unacceptably high road fatality rate in the Wheatbelt.

"These students are our next generation of drivers and we want to ensure they have a good understanding of road safety and the consequences of bad decisions. Education and discussion help keep our young drivers safe."

Community Education travel across regional Western Australia each year delivering road safety messages. For more information about RAC Community Education please visit the [RAC website](#).

Media Contact: Georgina Forde 0401 703 719