



Media Release

Saturday, 18 July 2015

RAC Roadside Assistance Patrols reveal the real state of WA roads

For the first time, RAC Roadside Assistance Patrols have revealed what they know and what they see on WA roads.

RAC General Manager Motoring Mark Weller said the RAC Roadside Assistance Survey provided real insights about the quality of WA roads, congestion and issues facing drivers.

“At times during the year RAC Patrols will rescue someone every minute across Western Australia. Last year our Patrols rescued over 400,000 stranded Western Australians,” Mr Weller said.

“Alarming, safety is a major issue for our Patrols and WA drivers,” he said.

RAC’s Patrols Survey 2015 has revealed an overwhelming 78% of Patrols surveyed have encountered a safety issue while on the job.

“More than 90% of Patrols surveyed experienced a near miss in the past 12 months with 20% experiencing a near miss at least once a week.

WA has the worst road safety record of any State in Australia with 184 fatalities on WA roads in 2014.

“Our survey is a timely reminder for all road users to take care on the roads, pay attention and drive to the road conditions,” Mr Weller said.

Results from the survey have also revealed that RAC Patrols have seen an increase in traffic congestion over the past year.

“Of the Patrols surveyed, 96% have seen an increase in congestion on the roads during peak times, with 43% seeing a decline in the quality of roads,” he said.

“One of the most significant and startling discoveries was that 98% of Patrols surveyed said they had noticed an increase in unsafe driving behaviours including road rage, tailgating, speeding, running red lights and using electronic devices whilst driving.

“This poor driving behaviour was most commonly accredited to driver impatience and inattention in congested traffic.”

RAC is very concerned that 84% of RAC Patrols surveyed had been a victim of mild road rage with one third revealing they had been a victim of severe road rage.

“The safety of RAC Patrols, RAC members and the community is the highest priority and RAC will continue to advocate for motorists to reduce their speed and, where possible, move into a right-hand lane when approaching vehicles stopped in emergency lanes.”

rac.com.au/media

Fast facts:

- 95% encounter distracted road users (eg use of hand held mobile phones)
- 88% encounter vehicles not slowing down
- 87% encounter vehicles travelling too close or not providing adequate room
- 97% have rescued children and pets from locked vehicles
- 78% have assisted a celebrity or well-known public figure
- 53% say the most frequent type of vehicle problems are damaged tyres
- 88% think motorists are less likely to know how to change a tyre
- 74% think motorists are less likely to read their driver's handbook
- 47% think breakdowns could have been avoided if the owner had had their car serviced regularly
- 30% think motorists are more likely to ignore their vehicle's gauges and warning lights
- 68% have arrived to a breakdown with a couple in the middle of a heated argument
- 36% have arrived to a couple being passionate

A copy of the RAC Patrol Survey Results 2015 can be found at rac.com.au/patrolsurvey2015

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