



Media Release

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Mandatory display of safety ratings essential to saving lives

RAC is again calling on the Australian Government, and the State Government, to take the lead on bolder road safety policy by urgently ensuring vital life-saving information is displayed at the point of sale on all new cars.

The call for government action comes as the Chinese built LDV V80 commercial van received just two out of a possible five stars in the latest round of Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) testing. ANCAP has not awarded a two star rating in almost four years.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said this safety information is available on ANCAP's website, however it is not being displayed to buyers as they weigh up which new vehicle to purchase.

"According to ANCAP, vehicle occupants have twice the chance of being killed or seriously injured in a vehicle rated 1-star compared to a 5-star vehicle," Mr Golsby said.

"Reviewing a vehicle's safety features and its ability to protect you and your family is one of the most important considerations when purchasing a new car. Until this information is visibly displayed on each vehicle at the point of sale, many consumers are making critical decisions in the dark.

"A similar rating system currently exists to guide consumers about the energy efficiency of washing machines and fridges, yet neither appliance will save your life in the event of a serious crash."

Last year, Western Australia's road toll was the highest it has been in four years, with 184 people dying on WA roads.

In 2014, the national road safety fatality rate was 5.0, while WA was 7.2. If WA only matched the national rate, an additional 56 people would still be alive today.

"We have seen how positive Government intervention has made a significant difference to Occupational Health and Safety deaths and injuries. It's now time to apply that same political will to road safety and systematically lift the standard of vehicles on Australian roads.

"WA is currently behind on its government-set target to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 40 per cent by 2020. If implemented, this simple and relatively inexpensive change could help save hundreds of lives, by educating and encouraging people to prioritise safety at the point of sale."

RAC this week hosted the ANCAP Council in Perth.

ANCAP is an independent vehicle safety advocate which crash tests and rates new vehicles to provide consumers with transparent advice on vehicle safety.

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