



# Media Release

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## RAC educates Pilbara students on road safety

RAC's [Community Education Team](#) is heading to the Pilbara next week to educate students and young drivers from Tom Price Senior High School, Karratha Senior High School, St Lukes College in Karratha, the Yandi-Yarra Community and Port Hedland Senior High School about staying safe on the roads.

RAC Senior Manager Media and Government Relations Liz Carey said the Community Education Team has delivered the road safety message to over 450,000 Year 10 to 12 students since 2002.

"We teach students the importance of safe driving and the effects of alcohol, drugs and reckless behaviour on driving and being a responsible passenger," Ms Carey said.

"Last year, 184 loved ones died on Western Australian roads and 57 percent of those were on regional roads."

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. RAC's most recent young driver survey showed almost 50 per cent of respondents used their phone while driving, while a further 20 per cent checked social media behind the wheel.

"These results are worrying, and reinforce the need to educate young drivers about safe driving."

Students are informed about the importance of considering a car's safety rating. RAC's 2015 [Used Car Safety Rating guide](#), which each year scores the safety of millions of second-hand cars, highlights how easy it is for people to make either a safe or alternatively, an uninformed choice for roughly the same amount of money.

"The difference between a 5-star rated used car and a 1 or 2-star car could literally be life and death. In the same crash, a driver of the lowest rating vehicle is more than six times as likely to be killed or seriously injured as the same driver in the highest rating vehicle."

Drug driving is a rising problem in WA so students are asked to try on the fatal vision goggles to get a feel for the loss of balance and vision that drugs and alcohol can cause.

"We ask the students, "would you get in a car with someone like that?" to really get them thinking about the dangers.

"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."

Students will also hear a presentation from [Paraplegic Benefit Fund](#)'s Rob Pike, who shares his own personal road trauma story with attendees to explain how different life is when living with a permanent disability. At the young age of 17, Rob lost both of his legs, as well as his three of his friends in a catastrophic car crash.

Community Education travel across regional WA each year and will be making more than 12 trips in 2015.

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