

MINISTERIAL FORUM ON ROAD SAFETY COMMUNIQUÉ

PERTH
THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2016

The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Darren Chester MP, chaired an inaugural meeting of state and territory road safety ministers and their representatives today to discuss ways all jurisdictions can increase efforts to reduce the unacceptable increase in road deaths and injuries.

Ministers agreed that the recent increase in road deaths across Australia and the lack of progress in reducing serious injuries is unacceptable and discussed ways that all jurisdictions can work together to achieve the 30 per cent reductions in death and serious injuries all jurisdictions have committed to under the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (NRSS).

In addition to reconfirming their commitment to the NRSS and the NRSS Action Plan 2015-17, Ministers committed to pursue a range of new and enhanced actions. These actions include:

- greater emphasis on achieving road safety benefits from infrastructure investment programs at the Commonwealth, state and territory levels to reduce death and serious injury;
- urgently investigate measures that will address the disproportionate number of deaths and injuries occurring on regional and remote roads, where two-thirds of road deaths occurred in 2015;
- work more closely with local government to improve the effectiveness of road safety treatments on local roads;
- investigate how we can reduce the cost of drug testing to enable more testing to be undertaken;
- investigate the opportunity to support more cost effective testing of drug impaired drivers;
- work together to improve community awareness about the risks of death and injury from mobile phone use while driving; and
- increase sharing of data and analysis nationally, particularly regarding drug testing, regional casualties and mobile phone use including increased access to mobile phone data for accident investigation.

The Commonwealth also highlighted its commitment to lifting vehicle safety standards, particularly in relation to light commercial vehicles which have been shown to be disproportionately involved in fatal crashes.

Ministers discussed the need for safe speed limits to apply to road types that are known to present safety risks, particularly where infrastructure improvements are not feasible in the short term, and also discussed ways to improve the enforcement of road rules across Australia. Ministers noted the need to have a balanced discussion in the community on speed as well as speeding as contributors to road trauma.

Ministers agreed that the work on a national definition and measurement of serious injuries from road crashes was urgent, and strongly supported improved data collection through the current national data linkage project being managed through Austroads, the peak organisation of Australasian road transport and traffic agencies.

Ministers acknowledged the value in sharing problems, actions and research undertaken, which provides the opportunity to address road safety issues nationally and reduce deaths and serious injury. Ministers will continue these valuable discussions at future meetings.

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS

The Hon Darren Chester MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Commonwealth)
The Hon Duncan Gay MLC	Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight (New South Wales)
The Hon Luke Donnellan MP	Minister for Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)
The Hon Mark Bailey MP	Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports (Queensland)
The Hon Liza Harvey MLA	Deputy Premier; Minister for Police, Road Safety, Training and Workforce Development, Women's Interests (Western Australia)
The Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC	Minister for Road Safety; Minister for Police (South Australia)
The Hon Rene Hidding MP	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
The Hon Nicole Manison MLA	Deputy Chief Minister; Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)
The Hon Meegan Fitzharris MLC	Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research; Transport and Municipal Services (Australian Capital Territory)

