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## **Warning on road safety as annual toll climbs**

RACT is warning motorists to be vigilant as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, in the wake of a horror start to the year on our roads.

The Australian Automobile Association (AAA), of which RACT is a member, today released its quarterly [benchmarking report](#) into the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS).

It showed that in the 12 months to end-March 2020, 37 people died on Tasmania's roads, compared to 30 deaths in the previous corresponding period. This is an increase of more than 23 per cent.

The report also showed Tasmania's road deaths per 100,000 population stood at 6.91, which was the second highest in the country behind the Northern Territory and well above the national figure of 4.53.

"The first three months of 2020 were terrible on our roads, with 15 deaths and 77 serious injuries," RACT Executive General Manager, Membership and Community, Stacey Pennicott said.

"This is a very concerning increase in the road toll. It not only impacts the families of those who lost their lives and those with serious, sometimes life-long injuries, but it also puts a load on our already strained health system."

Ms Pennicott said while in April the road toll had eased, this is due to fewer people being on our roads during the restrictions around COVID-19.

"It is important to remember that the recent drop in road casualties has been as a result of forced change, not cultural change by motorists.

"When the community starts to move out of isolation we need to remember to drive safely and avoid the Fatal Five – speed, not wearing seatbelts, fatigue, alcohol/drugs and distraction."

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