



Media release
Thursday, 19 August 2021
State Budget needs to look at road safety education overhaul

With children among the most vulnerable road users in the state, the RACT is calling on parents to help their kids learn safe road habits.

RACT's Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, said it was never too early to begin teaching children how to be safe near roads.

"Children are vulnerable road users, and with more traffic and more transport options, teaching the future generation of drivers about the importance of being safe near the road is more important now than ever before," Mr Bailey said.

"Of course it all begins at home and parents need to understand that they can pass on their bad habits to their children.

"The Government also has a massive role to play. That's why we're calling on next week's budget to look at overhauling road safety education in the classroom. We know that young Tasmanians, both behind the wheel and as pedestrians, are overrepresented in crash and fatality statistics, so it's clear more needs to be done.

"The RACT, as the organisation that represents almost 210,000 members in Tasmania, stands ready to work with Government to develop the tools and resources that would help keep young people safe.

"The Government needs to work with RACT, educators and other groups to target relevant age groups with relevant messages. For example, primary school aged kids need to know how to develop road sense and how to use public transport. While young people in year 11 and 12 need a different message, in particular speeding and the dangers of even low-level speeding, because we need to address the impact that is having on road safety.

"While I'm sure this issue will be fully canvassed in the upcoming Legislative Council inquiry into road safety, there's no reason why the Government can't get a head start and begin working on this issue now."

RACT's key tips for teaching children to be safe road users:

- **Talk about road safety whenever you're near a busy road with your children**
- **Hold hands with your children at all times when crossing the road**
- **Make sure your children are correctly restrained while in the car**
- **Model road safety behaviours in front of your children**