



Media release
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RACT staff experience dangers of drunk and distracted driving
National Road Safety Week

RACT staff have been given a first-hand taste of the dangers of drink driving and mobile phone use behind the wheel as part of National Road Safety Week.

RACT's team were today put through their paces during a simulated driving course at MyState Bank Arena alongside RACT driver trainers in a controlled environment.

Participants had to navigate a course while texting and again while wearing "beer goggles" which mirror the effect of drink driving.

RACT Group CEO Mark Mugnaioni said the course had been a powerful eye-opener for staff on the dangers of drunk and distracted driving.

"This exercise has not only been a very important eye opener for our staff, but it also serves as a warning for other drivers of the dangers caused by mobile phone use and drink driving," Mr Mugnaioni said.

"Despite significant driving experience, our staff showed why drink driving and distraction contribute to nearly half of all fatal and serious injury crashes in Tasmania each year.

"This exercise goes a long way to educating people about the dangers of drink driving and using your mobile phone when behind the wheel, and is particularly powerful for new and learner drivers.

"If you check your phone for two seconds while travelling at 100km/h, you'll have travelled 55 metres. That's longer than an Olympic-sized swimming pool, which is why we must leave our phones in our pockets, in the glovebox or even the boot when driving.

"Additionally, driving drunk or affected by drugs can impair vision, concentration, reaction time and motor skills, which increases crash risk. If you're drinking, make sure you find another way home."