

Road Traffic Victims Remembered in Perth

Today marked the annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims hosted by Injury Matters. Road Safety Minister, Hon. Michelle Roberts MLA, and Commissioner for Road Safety, Adrian Warner, joined key road safety figures to pay respects to all those lost or injured on Western Australian roads and to share their perspective on the future of road safety.

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims has become an important event in recognising the far-reaching impact road trauma has on road users, witnesses, emergency, and medical personnel. This year's theme, *Remember, Support, Act*, reminds all road users of their role in keeping our roads safe in remembrance of those lost or injured on them.

Injury Matters Recovery Support Manager, Christine Smith, said "This day is to publicly recognise the lives of those affected by road trauma, directly and indirectly, and to show our commitment to supporting people in the best way possible."

"There have been 133 deaths on WA roads already this year¹, with thousands more seriously injured," she said.

"Being directly involved in, first on scene or witness to a road crash can have a traumatic and lasting impact. This extends to family, friends, work colleagues and our emergency service personnel."

Injury Matters urge all road users to be mindful of what they can do to ensure they are safe on our roads. Upcoming holiday time can mean extra travel and distractions. Crash analysis shows that more than 70% of all serious crashes are due to drivers making mistakes, rather than deliberate risk-taking behaviour like speeding or drink driving.

Minimise distractions behind the wheel by putting your phone out of eyesight, setting a playlist, and committing to your travel time before your keys are in the ignition. It might only be a second or two, but if you're changing a song on your playlist, finding your sunnies, or doing your make-up, you're not looking at the road ahead – putting yourself and all other road users at risk.

Holidays can also bring with them difficult feelings for those who have experienced road trauma. Road Trauma Support WA are here to help in this time, with an upcoming group session planned for early December. This session will assist you in supporting yourself or others through special occasions – including self-care strategies and coping tips amongst peers. Please visit www.rtswa.org.au to find out more.

Road Trauma Support WA is delivered by Injury Matters and funded by the Road Trauma Trust Account with contract management by the Road Safety Commission WA.

Injury Matters recognises that stories about road crashes can adversely impact those previously affected by another trauma. We request you acknowledge this and encourage you to include details for support services available, not only for this event but for any future road stories. Suggested wording: If you or someone you know has been affected by road trauma, contact Road Trauma Support WA on 1300 004 814 or visit www.rtswa.org.au

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For further information, interview, and photo opportunities, contact Ashleigh Kostecki, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, on 6166 7688 or communications@injurymatters.org.au.

Reference

1. Latest Statistics of WA Road Fatalities as at 13 November 2020, Road Safety Commission. Available at www.rsc.wa.gov.au