

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01AM FRIDAY 28 MAY 2021

Fatality Free Friday plea to Qld drivers

RACQ has challenged drivers across Queensland to make today (28 May), fatality free on our roads.

Club spokesperson Clare Hunter said Fatality Free Friday was a national initiative which aimed to have every driver in the country make it home safely for one day.

“One life lost is one too many, so today is about getting everyone to seriously think about their actions behind the wheel – and for one day we endeavour to not lose a single life on our roads,” Ms Hunter said.

“Queensland’s road toll is in dire straits with more than 100 people killed on our roads this year alone - almost 20 more than the same time last year.

“Data shows Fridays are the deadliest weekday on our roads and the worst hour for crashes on Fridays is around 3pm and 7pm, so please remain vigilant, especially at these high-risk times, and don’t drive if you’re not feeling up to the task.”

Ms Hunter said motorists needed to remember the basic safety steps to better protect themselves and other road users.

“Each year around 40,000 people are killed or seriously injured in road crashes in Australia – that’s tens of thousands of lives changed forever, communities torn apart, and in many cases these tragedies sadly could have been avoided,” she said.

“We don’t just talk about the Fatal Five for no reason – we know these are the leading cause of crashes on our roads, and each of them is avoidable.

“It’s very simple, please wear a seatbelt, don’t speed, don’t drive if you’re tired or affected by drugs or alcohol and don’t be distracted – even a moments inattention can have serious consequences.

“We need people to drive like their life depends on it, because it does.”

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Clare Hunter 0417 343 969; RACQ Media Advisor Kate Leonard-Jones 0419 543 514.

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.