

11 December 2020

Survive your drive this holiday period: RACQ

RACQ has urged drivers in Mount Isa to take extra care as they hit the road for the start of school holidays, after it was revealed RACQ's Air Rescue Network had responded to a distressing number of motor vehicle crashes this year.

Club spokesperson Clare Hunter said while there were still a few weeks left in 2020, already RACQ LifeFlight Rescue Service had responded to and airlifted 228 patients injured in motor vehicle incidents across Queensland, with three in Mount Isa.

"Christmas and New Year periods are such a high-risk time and we're concerned that we will see a spike in our already high road toll," Ms Hunter said.

"Sadly, we've already lost 257 people on Queensland roads, nearly 23 percent higher than the total lives lost for 2019.

"These are not just numbers – they're people who have died and it has a devastating ripple effect on their family, friends and community.

"We are urging everyone before you hit the road, make sure you're up to the task of driving and plan your trip carefully.

"Get enough rest and take a break every two hours, buckle up, put away distractions like phones, and don't speed or get behind the wheel if you've had a too many drinks or are affected by drugs."

RACQ LifeFlight Rescue Director of Rotary Operations Brian Guthrie said the service's fleet of choppers was ready to respond to any Queenslander in need.

"Our RACQ LifeFlight Rescue helicopters are, essentially, flying intensive care units, so we can ensure the best care possible, should the worst happen," he said.

"One motor vehicle accident is too many, but we are always ready to answer the call: 24/7, 365 days a year."

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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.