

# ROAD SAFETY IN WA

## TOWARDS ZERO AND THE SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Towards Zero is Western Australia's road safety strategy for 2008 to 2020. It is anchored in evidence-based research and provides a framework for both government and community to work in partnership and to achieve a long-term reduction in road-related deaths and serious injuries. A fundamental principle of this strategy is the Safe System approach where all road users have a shared responsibility to comply with the rules.

A Safe System recognises that humans are fallible, they make errors, and can only endure limited forces in a crash before being seriously injured or killed. A Safe System is about developing a safer road network with safer vehicles and a better understanding of the complex interactions between road users, roads and roadsides, vehicles and travel speeds. A Safe System aims to prevent crashes from occurring, reduce the severity of crashes, and the role of human error.

The cornerstones of Towards Zero – Safe Vehicles, Safe Road Users, Safe Roads and Roadsides, and Safe Speeds – have the potential to reduce serious injury and death in Western Australia by the year 2020.



### FIND OUT MORE

#### Road Safety Commission

#### Towards Zero – Road Safety Strategy

<https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/RSC/media/Documents/About%20Us/Towards%20Zero/towards-zero-strategy.pdf>

## YOUNG DRIVERS AND ROAD SAFETY

Young drivers are over-represented in road traffic injuries. It is the lack of hazard perception skills, risk awareness and self-assessment that makes young drivers crash. The WA licensing system and the WA State Government's Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy identify young novice drivers as having:

- a greater chance of serious injury and death than any other age group
- a greater risk of crashing within the first six months on P plates, particularly young men
- an increased exposure to risk due to a combination of inexperience and overconfidence.

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence to address these risks, is that extensive and varied driving practice under supervision can significantly reduce the crash rate for provisional drivers (P plate drivers) (Senserrick, 2004). This important protective measure is reinforced throughout the Keys4Life program and is an integral part of the Towards Zero strategy and WA licensing system.