



# SAFETY ALERT

## ROAD DEATHS AUSTRALIA – STATISTICAL DATA 2012

The Department of Transport and Infrastructure have just released the report *Road Deaths in Australia – Statistical Data 2012*. The report gives a thorough statistical summary of commercial and domestic deaths on the road in Australia for the last reporting period. Over the last decade, total annual fatal crashes decreased by 21.3 per cent. The estimated trend is an average annual fall of 2.7 per cent.

- Around 36 per cent of fatal crashes occur between 6pm and 6am. For most of the decade this proportion has been largely stable. It has fallen in the most recent two years.
- Around 40 per cent of all fatal crashes occur during the weekend (6pm Friday to 6am Monday). This proportion has not changed over the decade.
- Fatal crashes occurring in low-speed zones ( $\leq 60$  km/h) account for around 34 per cent of the total. Crashes where the posted limit is between 70km/h to 90 km/h, account for 23 per cent, and crashes where the limit is above 90 km/h account for 43 per cent. Over the decade, the proportion of fatal crashes in low speed zones has increased slightly, and that for high speed zones has decreased slightly.
- The average number of persons killed per fatal crash is approximately 1.10. In low speed zones it is around 1.05, and in high speed zones it is 1.15.
- Many deaths continue to occur in the work place – especially involving heavy vehicles.

### Deaths in crashes involving a heavy vehicle<sup>e</sup> — 12 months ending June

	Articulated truck involved	Heavy rigid truck involved	Bus involved	No heavy vehicle involved	Total <sup>f</sup>
<b>12 months ended June</b>					
2005	143	104	35	1,301	1,577
2006	169	73	33	1,376	1,647
2007	167	78	19	1,335	1,596
2008	178	94	24	1,201	1,489
2009	130	97	25	1,279	1,524
2010	160	80	24	1,143	1,401
2011	147	62	25	1,069	1,294
2012	124	86	23	1,054	1,279
% change 2011-2012	-15.6	38.7	-8.0	-1.4	-1.2
Ave. trend change p.a. (%)	-2.5	-2.4	-4.2	-3.7	-3.6

e Complete data for heavy rigid truck involvement commenced in 2004, and is current to June 2012. Heavy trucks are those weighing over 4.5t. GVM.

f Total is all deaths, including those where more than one type of heavy vehicle was involved.

### Legislative Requirements:

Pursuant to the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (WA), employers must provide a safe place of work. A motor vehicle being used for work purposes is a place of work and there is a duty on the employer to ensure it is safe to work within. A driver using a work vehicle should be fit to work, competent and aware of the work place risks.

### Barbaro Group:

Barbaro Group is a subject matter expert in all aspects of land transport, vehicle management and road safety.

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