

Media Release

Vehicle safety will help keep the road toll down this Easter

Melbourne, 21 March – Twenty-six people have died on Victorian roads over the past decade during the Easter holiday period, so it's about time vehicle safety became part of the safe driving message, says the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC).

With thousands of families driving to holiday destinations over the Easter long weekend, motorists are often reminded about safe driving messages, such as speeding, drink driving, taking suitable rest periods, and the distractions of mobile devices.

What is often neglected is the key message of driving only roadworthy vehicles. So, this Easter holiday, VACC is reminding motorists to check the condition of their vehicles.

“Safe driving messages are vitally important in keeping motorists safe on Victoria’s roads. But safe driving messages only work if people are driving safe vehicles. Before heading off this Easter, VACC is appealing to motorists to conduct a close inspection of their vehicles, in order to check that the basic safety features are in sound working order,” said VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym.

“Every motorist should visually inspect their tyres, seat belts, mirrors and wiper blades. If tyres are flat, pump them up to the recommended pressures noted in the vehicle’s handbook and if a tyre is worn, have it replaced – this goes for caravans too. Top up the windscreen wiper bottle and check that the wipers are in good condition and, at the same time, check the condition of the battery and fill the radiator to the required level.”

Mr Gwilym said that brakes and suspension systems were harder for the average motorist to check, so recommended an inspection by a trusted mechanical business.

“The safest thing to do is to have vehicles serviced in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. This could mean returning to the dealership where the vehicle was purchased, or taking it to a local mechanical business that can carry out logbook servicing – and remember, this does not void any manufacturer warranty.

“Having your vehicle inspected by a trusted mechanical business ensures that your precious cargo – your family and friends – are as safe as possible this holiday time,” said Mr Gwilym.

Mr Gwilym said it was everyone’s responsibility to work towards a zero road toll.

“Let’s consider all aspects of road safety this Easter – safe driving, safe roads and safe vehicles – and work together to get everyone home safely,” said Mr Gwilym.

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* Source https://bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx

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