


National Road Safety Partnership Program

# 2025 Annual Report

Celebrating our 10+1 Birthday!







The National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) is proud to celebrate its 10+1 birthday in 2025. The program was launched by Prince Michael of Kent in Melbourne in 2014 as part of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Its vision remains clear:

*"All businesses and organisations striving to eliminate workplace road trauma."*

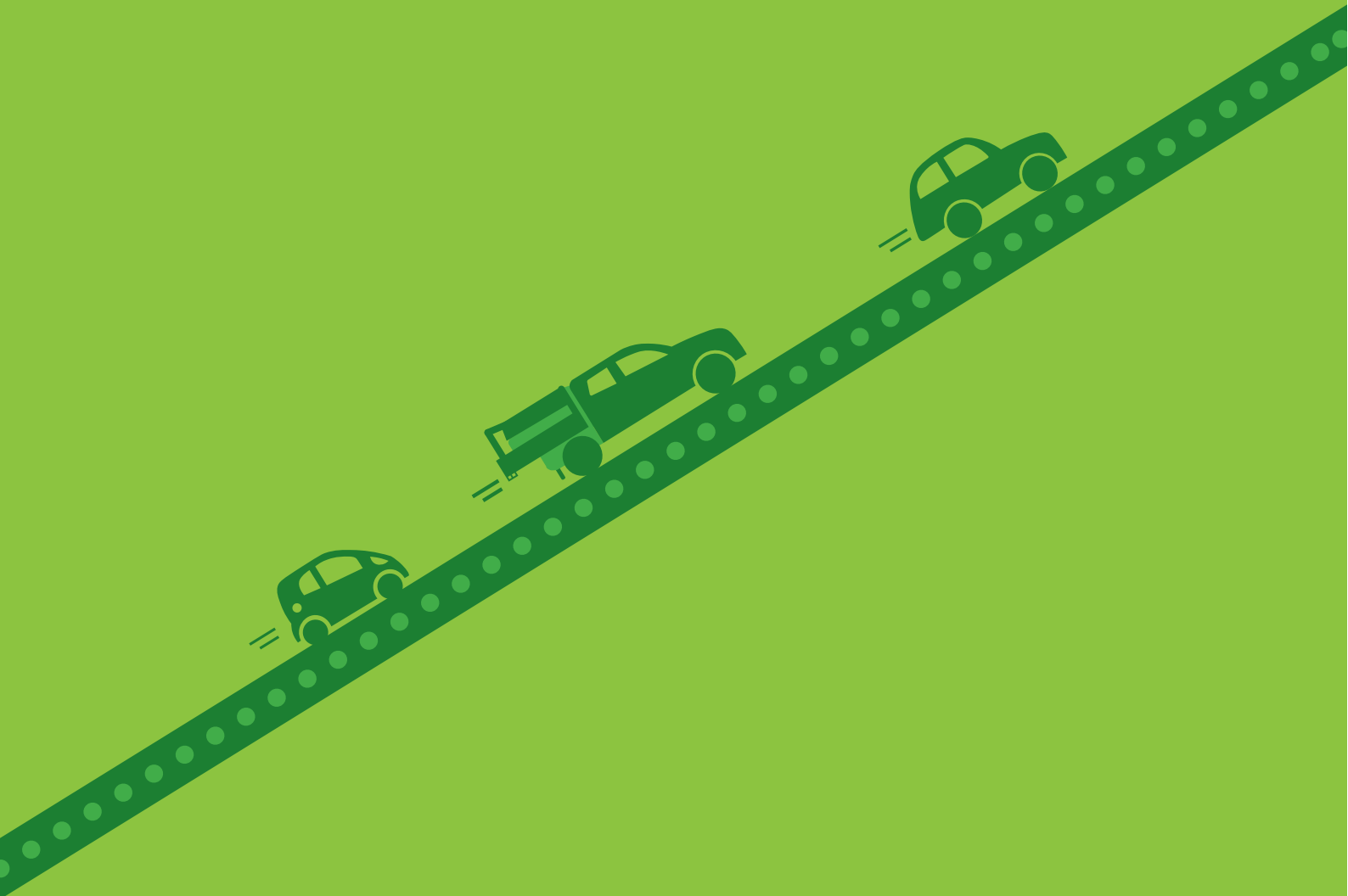
To achieve this vision, the NRSPP operates under a framework grounded in the Safe System approach, with two central pillars:

- Corporate Engagement: Encompassing a suite of initiatives aimed at encouraging organisations to take proactive steps to improve road safety within their workplace and spheres of influence.
- Strategic Facilitation: Supporting both formal (e.g., working groups, forums, special projects) and informal (e.g., online forums, personal discussions) collaborations that bring together organisations, governments and researchers to share knowledge, experiences, and insights.

Since the Program's inception over a decade ago, the NRSPP has consistently delivered on its vision through collaboration and evidence-informed action. A key factor in the Program's sustainability is the generous in-kind contributions of its partners and their willingness to collaborate on shared challenges.

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Professor Emeritus, Monash University  
Accident Research Centre and NRSPP Chair



## Foreword from: Dr. Judith Charlton AM

*"I commend to you the NRSPP's Annual Report and the 2024 Year-in-Review which celebrates an exceptional year of accomplishments for workplace road safety."*

A highlight was the announcement of our successful grant to support Grey Fleet Safety, awarded by the Commonwealth Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' Grants Scheme. Grey fleet encompasses any vehicle used for work not directly provided by the organisation that employs the driver. The grant supports an ambitious program of research to work with Australian businesses to provide better knowledge and resources for measuring and improving workplace road safety culture and managing risk in their grey fleets. A key achievement of the Grey Fleet Working Group to date is the development of a Grey Fleet Safety Management Model now embedded in the NRSPP website. The Model, and accompanying resources, is intended for use by organisations to rate their performance on key criteria and determine where improvements can be made to achieve optimal safety management.

The NTARC2.0 initiative, a partnership between NTI, MUARC and the NRSPP, has entered its second year and has set a new standard in heavy vehicle major incident reporting. The first Major Incident Investigation Report was released in June 2024 and provides important insights into the heavy vehicle sector, with inattention and distraction, speeding and unsafe following distances contributing to an overall increase in incident severity and frequency.

Another highlight was the release of the 2023 Used Car Safety Ratings Report in October 2023. This was the second of the UCSR Reports issued by the Vehicle Safety Research Group from its new home with the NRSPP at MUARC. The 2024 UCSR Report noted significant improvements in vehicle safety over the past 20 years, with a 36% reduction in the average risk of death or serious injury for drivers in 2022 model vehicles compared to those manufactured in 2002. The NRSPP is proud to be part of the translation of this research which provides evidence-based guidance on safe vehicle purchasing to Australian consumers.

In February 2025, I had the privilege of representing the NRSPP and MUARC at the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road safety in Marrakech, an important global event, held every 5 years. Co-hosted by the World Health Organisation and the Kingdom of Morocco, the 2025 event marked the half-way point in the second Decade of Action for Road Safety. It brought together more than 5000 heads of governments, road safety experts from academia, NGOs and industry to assess progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals for road safety and sustainable mobility. In their recommendations for the Conference, the Academic Expert Group noted that around one-third of all road deaths globally, occur when driving at or for work. The Group emphasised the role of organisations in addressing this challenge and recognised that governments alone cannot achieve the scale of change required to reach the 2021-2030 target: to reduce road deaths and injuries by at least 50% compared to baseline. It was inspiring to hear from leaders of companies and organisations who have invested in road safety through innovative initiatives to reduce workplace risk. An important take-out from the Conference for me, was that the work of the NRSPP and its Partners sets an exceptional benchmark and plays a significant role in the commitment to achieving zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050.

It has been a pleasure to work with the NRSPP team and our many partner representatives this past year, through Special Projects, Forums, Research activities and Steering Committee. I acknowledge the deep commitment and support of the outgoing Committee representatives over the 2021-2024 term. To the new and returning members who have joined us in 2025, thank you for your willingness to contribute to the program for the forthcoming term – it is with your invaluable support that we are able to change expectations and shift priorities for better road safety outcomes in our workplaces.





Director of the National Road Safety Partnership Program

## Message from: Jerome Carslake

*“As we celebrate 10+1, I look back and reflect on the NRSPP’s evolution since it came into existence in 2014. The idea for the program was a reflection within the National Transport Commission that road safety was not just the remit of government but should be a shared responsibility for all road users.”*



Associate Professor, Behavioural Science at Monash University Accident Research Centre

## Message: Dr. Sjaan Koppel

*“It has been a privilege to serve as the Academic Lead for the NRSPP during a landmark year of research-driven impact and expansion.”*

One particular area of opportunity was the vehicle as a workplace because good practice safety is linked with productivity and efficiency thus the focus on NRSPP was born. To succeed, the Program’s framework had to be designed by industry - this was achieved through extensive consultation and is now the domain of the Steering Committee.

The Program’s framework is twofold; one that meets the challenges of the ‘here and now’ through Corporate Engagement, and for the longer term, a data-driven approach is through its Strategic Facilitation and powered by its working groups and forums, delivering complex, diverse programs of research including NTARC and VSRG. The NRSPP’s approach is unique in how it engages its partners, and the Program’s achievements and impact are attributed to the invaluable support provided by many individuals, businesses and organisations.

For me, the task of leading NRSPP, means keeping a keen eye on the future needs of the sector while at the same time focusing on the current and practical imperatives. This is challenging at times, and sometimes difficult to know whether we are making a difference. But I am regularly rewarded by unexpected emails, phone calls, and encounters with strangers who acknowledge the NRSPP’s great work, how they use the resources and find them invaluable. In Safe Work Month in October 2025, the NRSPP will release a number of new tools which will help partners measure their Workplace Road Safety, understand their driving culture and develop actions to improve it. As we celebrate the past 10+1 years I am excited about the NRSPP’s future and its road map of activities as we strive collaboratively with our partners to share the responsibility for road safety.



**Sjaan is a winner of the 2024 ACRS Women in Road Safety Award**

The program’s evolution into a host of two major research initiatives—NTARC2.0 and the Vehicle Safety Research Group—marks a significant step forward in our capacity to translate data into actionable insights for safer roads and workplaces. As a program proudly hosted by MUARC, the NRSPP has uniquely harnessed academic rigour and industry partnership to deliver practical tools, such as the expanded suite of Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talks and the upcoming Grey Fleet Risk Maturity Continuum. Our continued focus on workplace road safety culture, evidence-based guidelines, and scalable innovation reflects the strength of our collaborative model. I commend our partners and team for another year of outstanding achievement, and look forward to celebrating the program’s 10+1 milestone in 2025.

# Celebrating 10+1 Years!

As part of NRSPP's celebration the 2024/25 Swinburne Communication and Design Interns Christine Vong and Safiye Keskin are giving the Program a branding revamp.

The origins of NRSPP's name and brand come from a project code in the National Transport Commission's work program, with little focus on design or brand. The brand refresh is an exciting way to launch a new decade of NRSPP activity.





## 2013



- **BHP Billiton** hosts first NRSPP Steering Committee to formalise framework.
- Core funding confirmed with Transport for **NSW**, **SIRA**, **TAC**, **SA MAC**; **ARRB** becomes inaugural host.

## 2015



- *Australia's Safer Vehicle Purchasing Policy* and **B2B video** *Safer Vehicles are Better Business* released.
- **First Thought Leadership: *Sleep - the missing link in fighting fatigue.***
- *City of Sydney* joins as first Program Partner with new Tier system.
- *Re:act* program launched **in collaboration with Swinburne, RACV, Transurban & Hardedge.**

## 2014

- 5 May - Program launched by **Prince Michael of Kent** at UN Decade of Action event hosted by RACV, Melbourne.
- *First Case Study: **UnitingCare QLD - Cutting crashes & reducing insurance premiums.***
- **Prof. Ian Johnston** appointed as Inaugural Independent Chair.

## 2016

- **Driver Headspace Working Group** funds first *NRSPP research on driver stress.*
- *SUMV Guide* and *B2B video released*, funded by **Optus, Telstra & Vodafone.**
- **NHVR** and **QLD TMR** become Core Funders.



## 2017



- **WA Road Safety** Commission becomes a Core Funder.
- **Grey Fleet Working Group established;** *first Guide published* and Flinders University partnership on legal implications.
- **Webinar:** *Trauma Surgeons Insight – Speed, Cars, Crashes & Recovery.*

## 2019

- Suicide in Road Transport Working Group established, *driven by Toll Group data; leads to NRSPP/Austrroads Prevention Project.*
- NRSPP awarded HVSI Grant to scope CLOCS-A development.
- Research released: *Light Vehicles – Legal Implications for Businesses.*
- Grey Fleet discussion facilitated at AfMA 2019.

## 2021



- NRSPP awarded HVSI Grants for CLOCS-A and Toolbox Talks.
- NRSPP wins 2021 *Prince Michael Road Safety Award.*

## 2018



- Prof. Barry Watson appointed as Second Independent Chair.
- *MoU signed with Melbourne Metro and Transport for London* to bring CLOCS to Australia.
- First Toolbox Talk package released.
- *NRSPP meets Deputy PM Michael McCormack* to discuss workplace road safety.

## 2020



- MUARC wins bid to host NRSPP.
- *AAA fatigue project begins with NRSPP/MUARC/Tip Top.*
- NRSPP featured in *National Road Safety Strategy 2021–25 Action Plan.*



## 2023

- CLOCS-A formally transferred to CILT-A.
- Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talks final report released.
- Campaigns: Look Beyond the Truck and Respect Traffic Controllers.
- 2023 Used Car Safety Ratings released.



## 2025



- Vehicle Safety Research Group fully integrated into NRSPP.
- Grey Fleet and Hill Descent Toolbox Talk packages released.
- Website revamped to enhance accessibility.
- Safeteams partnership established.

## 2022

- Prof. Jude Charlton appointed as NRSPP's third Independent Chair.
- First NRSPP Evaluation Report completed.
- Toolbox Talk renewal begins with Alcohol and Other Drugs.
- Used Car Safety Ratings transition to NRSPP; supporting Fact Sheets released.
- Retail and Grocery Safety Forum launched, hosted by EY.

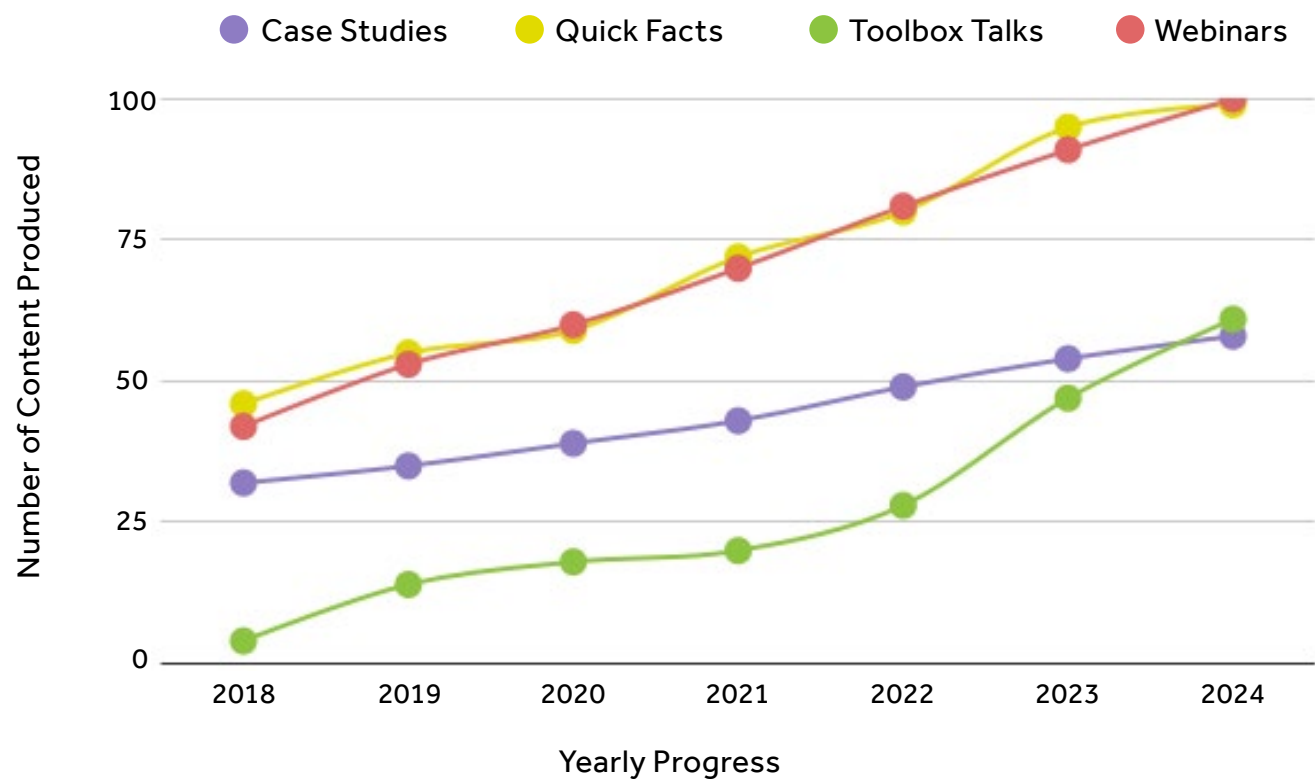
## 2024



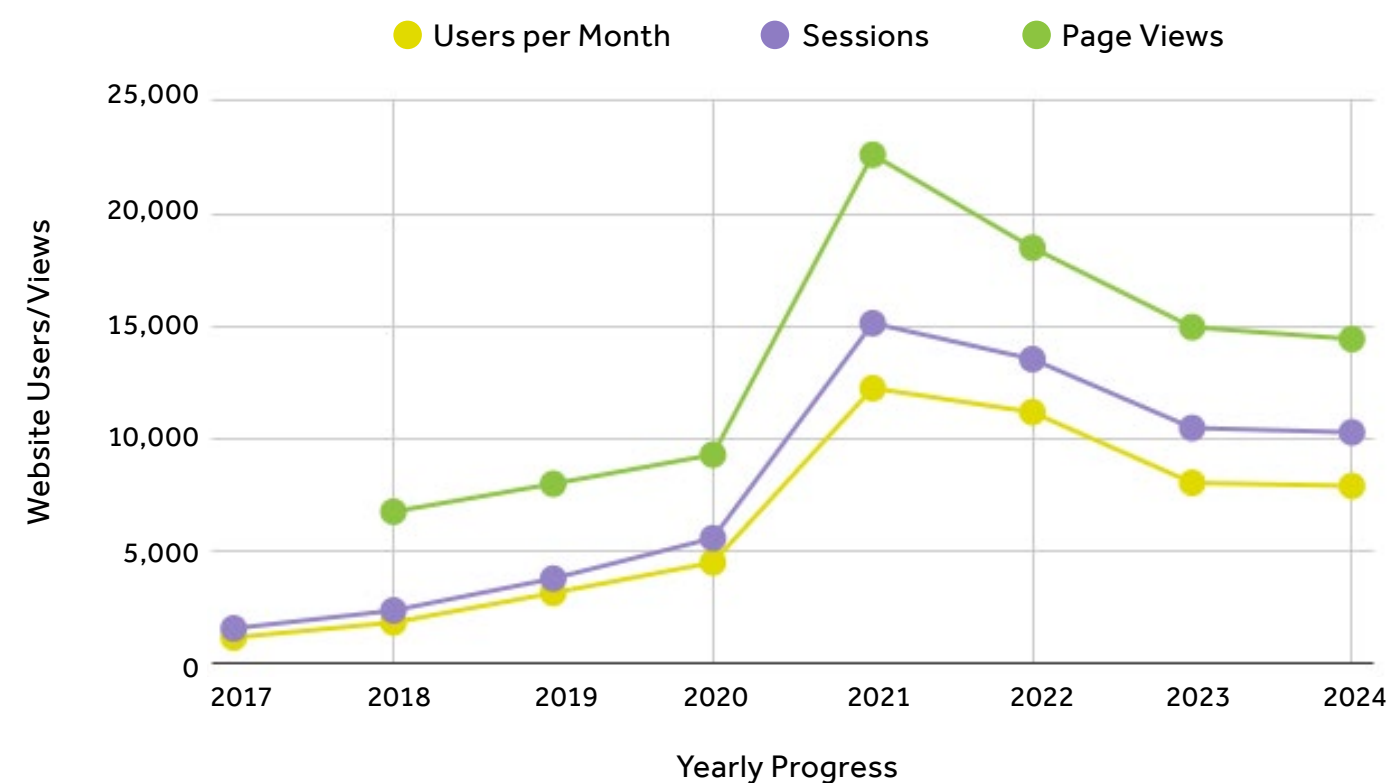
- ACT Government becomes a Core Funder.
- Respect Traffic Controllers campaign wins 3rd place at 2024 International Safety Media Awards.
- NTARC transitions to NRSPP with NTI and MUARC; first Major Incident Investigation Report released.
- Commonwealth backs NRSPP's Vehicles as a Workplace project.



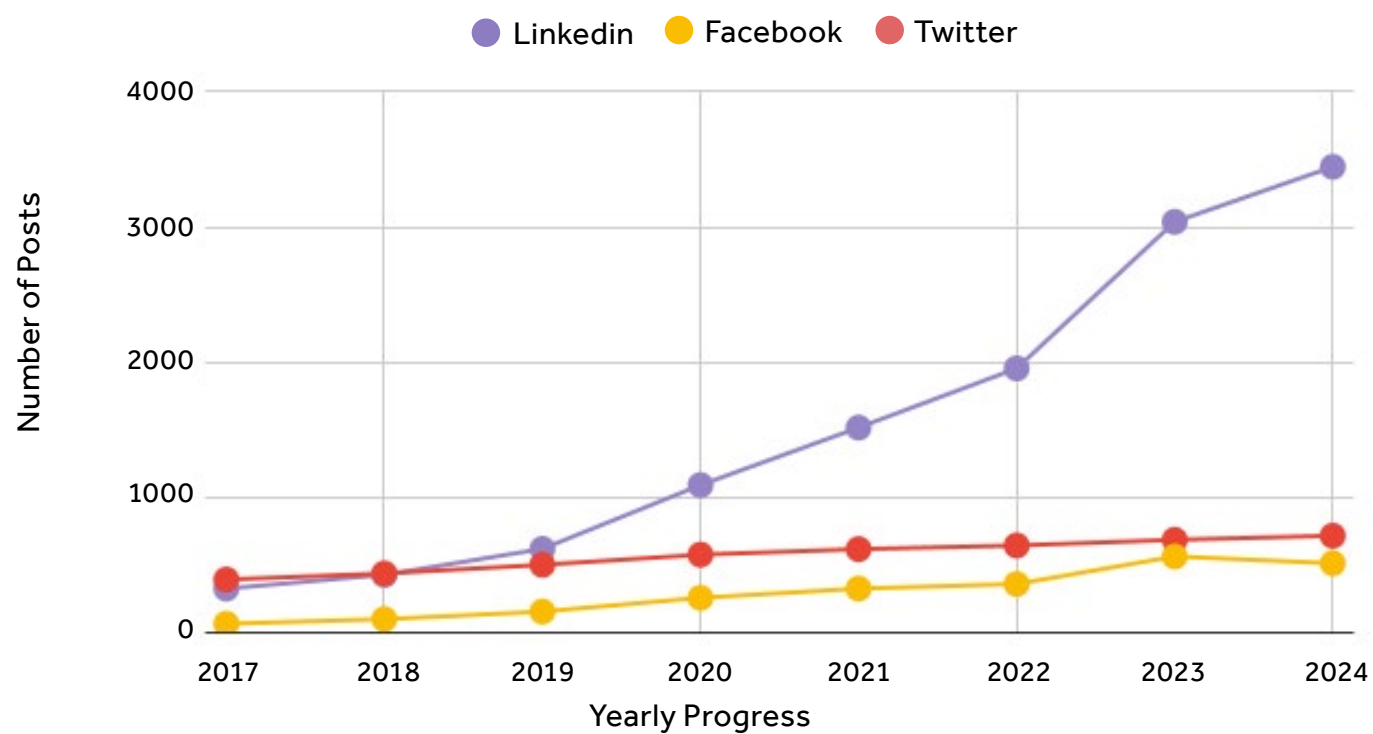
**Growth in NRSPP content produced**



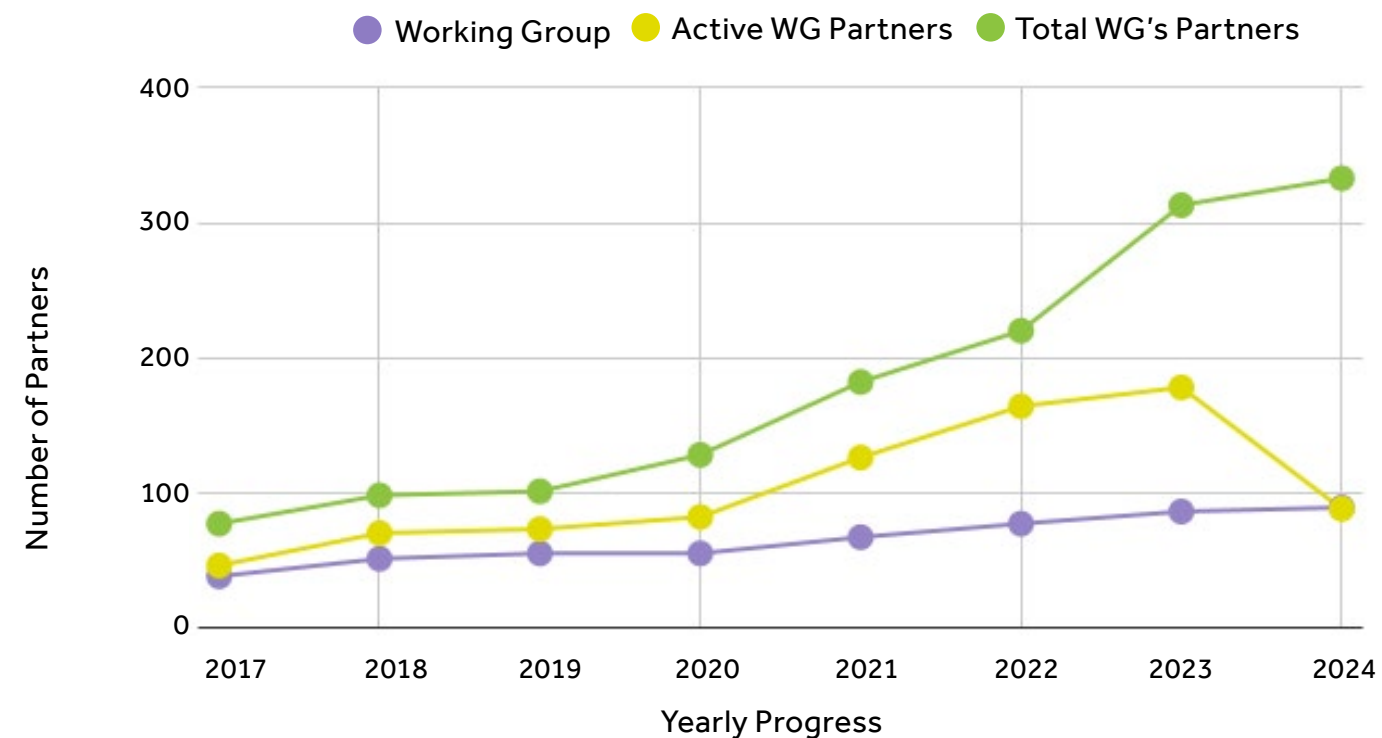
**Growth in Website User Engagement**

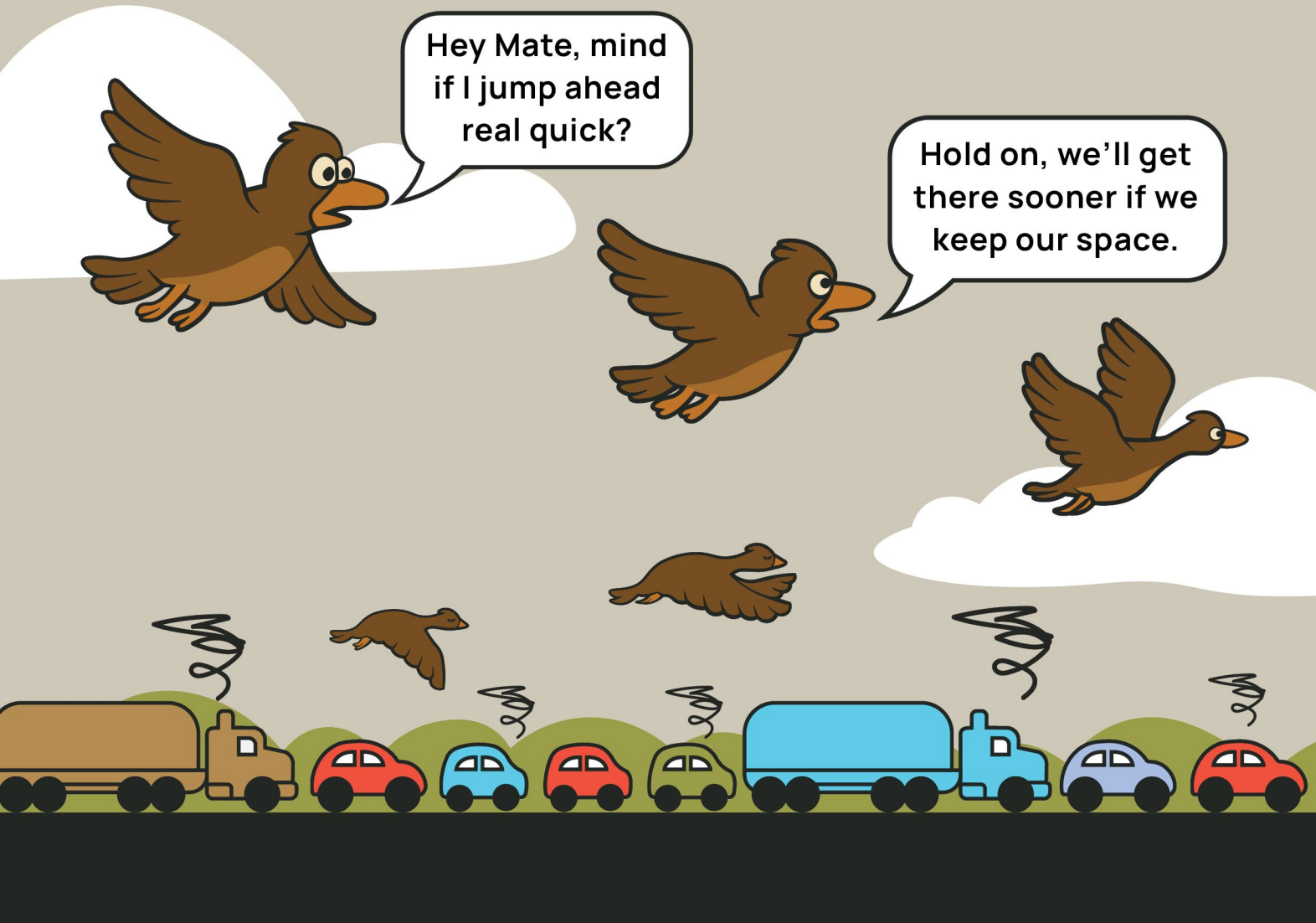


**Growth in NRSPP Social Media Content**

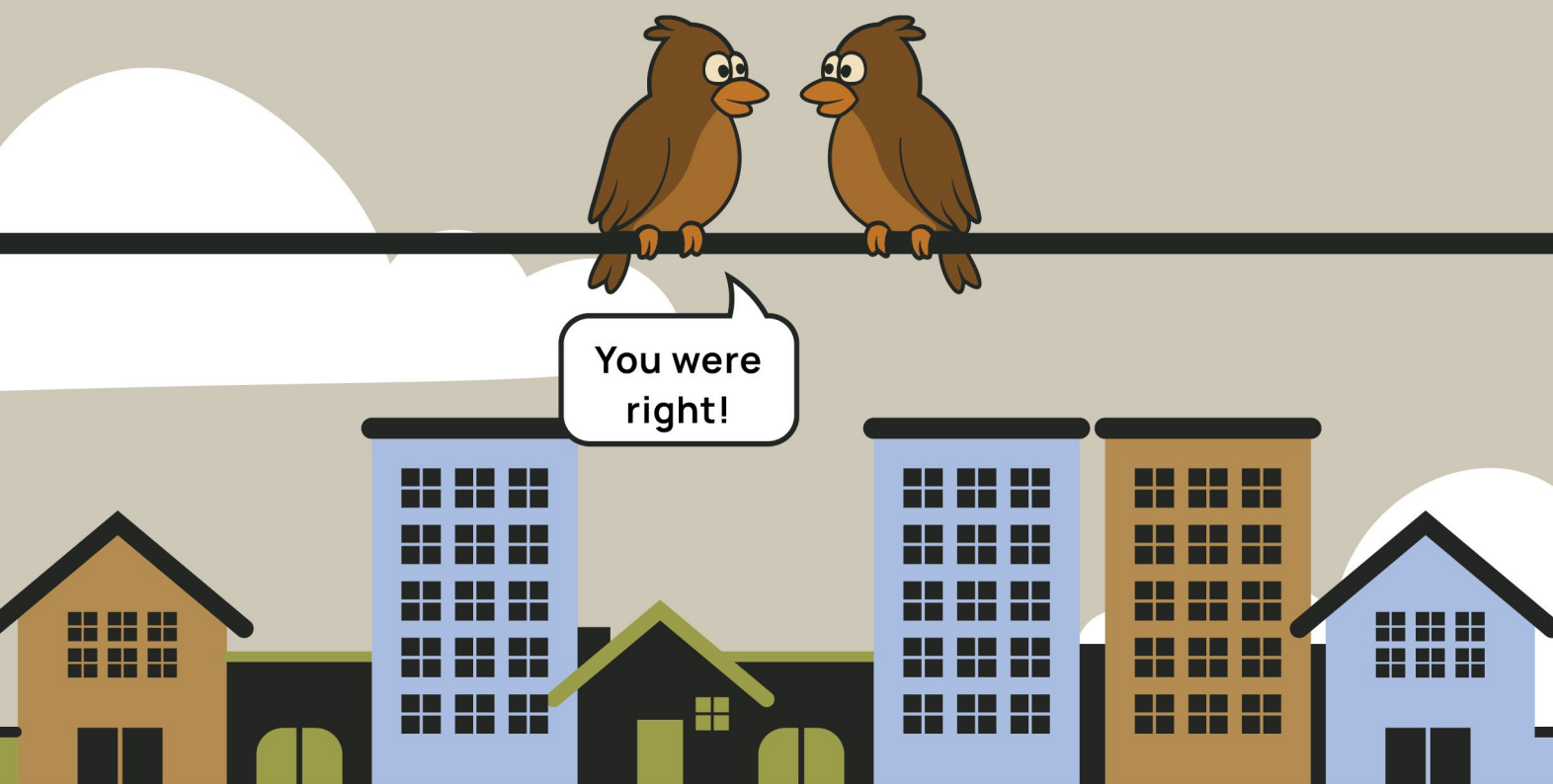


**Growth in NRSPP Partnerships**





\*10 Minutes later\*



Keep a safe space when you're travelling  
Tailgating isn't natural

## 2025 NRSPP Campaign: Tailgating Isn't Natural

The NRSPP "[Tailgating Isn't Natural](#)" campaign encourages drivers to reflect on their habits and better understand safe following distances in various road conditions.

The campaign is grounded in evidence-based research, drawing from a wide range of relevant literature. Survey results show promising awareness: 80% of heavy vehicle drivers, 88% of workplace light vehicle drivers, and 87% of non-workplace drivers agree that the 2–3 second rule is appropriate under ideal conditions. While these figures are encouraging, there's still room for improvement. Maintaining safe following distances is a basic rule taught in driving school and should remain a lifelong habit.

Inspired by nature, the campaign highlights how tailgating goes against the instinctive behaviours seen in the animal kingdom. Just like animals maintain space for safety, so should we. But behind the wheel, that natural instinct can be overridden, putting ourselves and others at risk.





## 2025 Intern: Safiye Keskin

**My time at NRSPP has gone by so quickly, and as my internship comes to a close, I just want to say a genuine thank you to everyone I've had the chance to work with.**

I've gained a deeper understanding of road safety, not just from a policy perspective, but in how it affects everyday lives and communities. It's been rewarding to understand the bigger picture and see how much effort goes into creating safer roads for everyone.

What really made this experience stand out was the people. From the very beginning, everyone was kind, welcoming, and passionate about the work being done. That support made a big difference and helped me feel like part of the team.

Thank you for all the guidance, encouragement, and for making this such a meaningful experience. I'm leaving with new knowledge, new perspective, and a lot of appreciation.



## 2025 Intern: Christine Vong

**As my time with NRSPP comes to an end, I'm incredibly grateful for the experiences and connections I've made. This opportunity has allowed me to grow both personally and professionally, and it has been rewarding to contribute to work that aims to make a real difference.**

The environment at NRSPP and MUARC has been supportive, inspiring, and full of opportunities to learn. I've gained valuable insights, developed new skills, and worked alongside people who are truly passionate about what they do. It has been a place where I felt encouraged to challenge myself and take initiative.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who made this experience so meaningful. Your guidance and support played a big part in my development, and I will always appreciate the time I spent here.

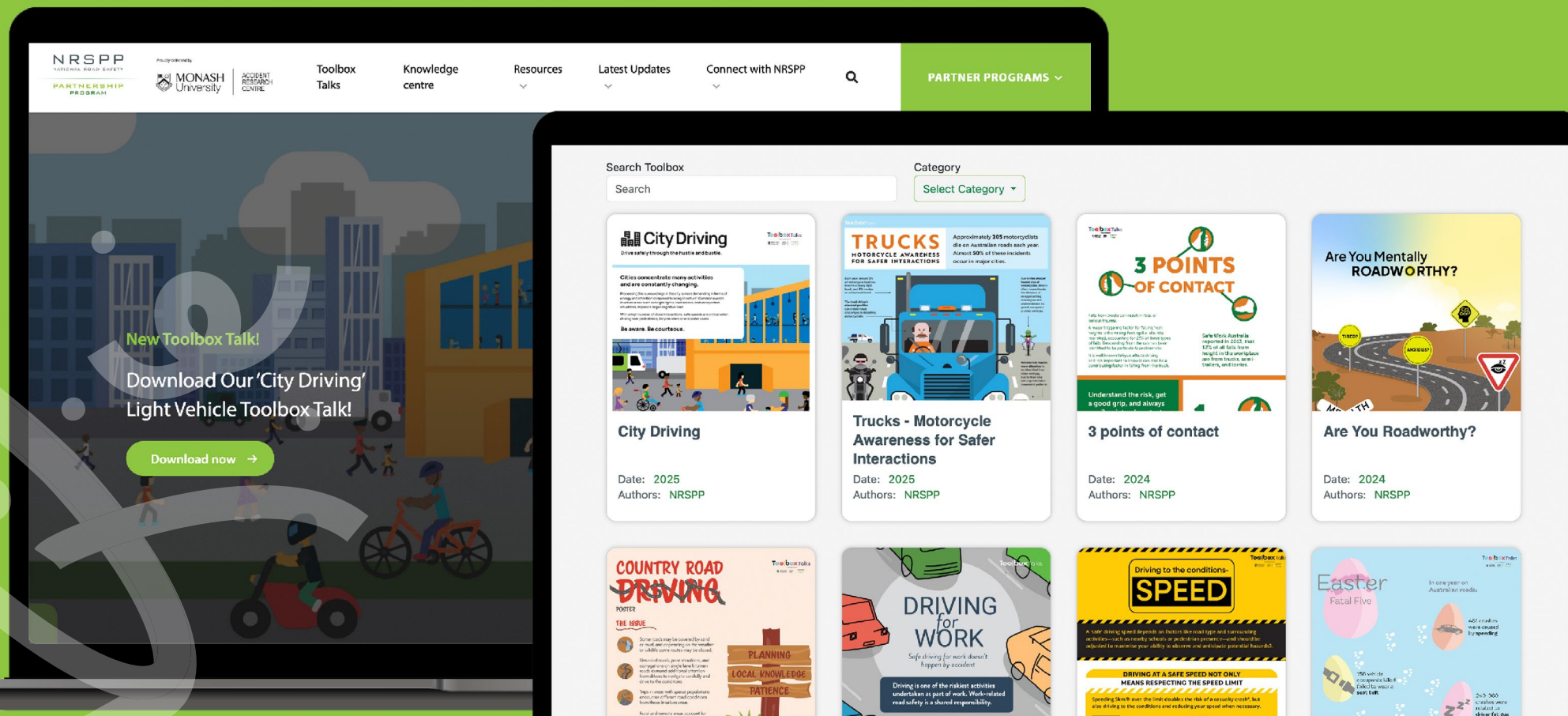
As I move forward, I will carry the lessons and memories with me. Thank you again to the entire team for making this such a memorable and impactful experience.



# NRSP Website has been Re-vamped

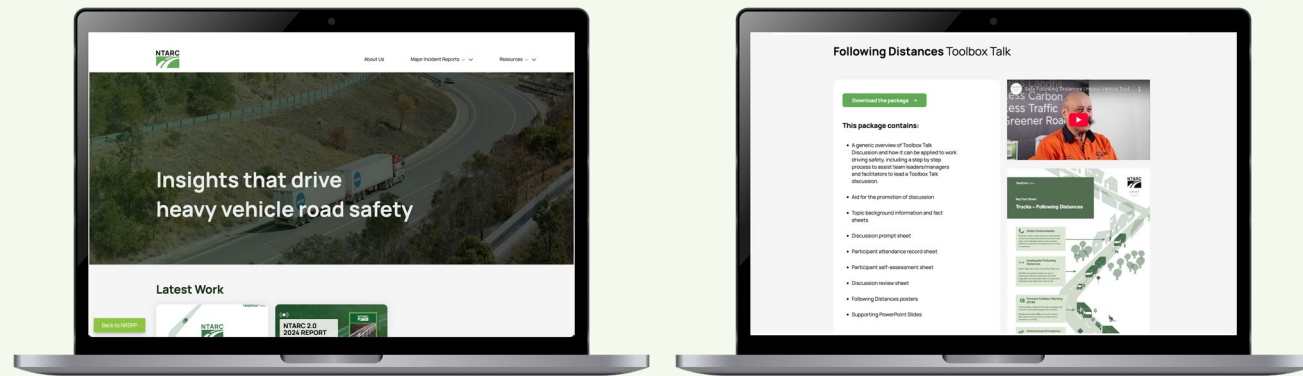
After years with the same website, we are excited to launch a new version designed to better showcase our growing collection of content.

We have also partnered with SafeTeams to present our Toolbox Talks, making them accessible both on SafeTeams and the NRSP website, allowing us to reach a wider audience. In addition, the new website features dedicated subsections for NTARC, VRSG, Grey Fleet, and the Utilities Forum.

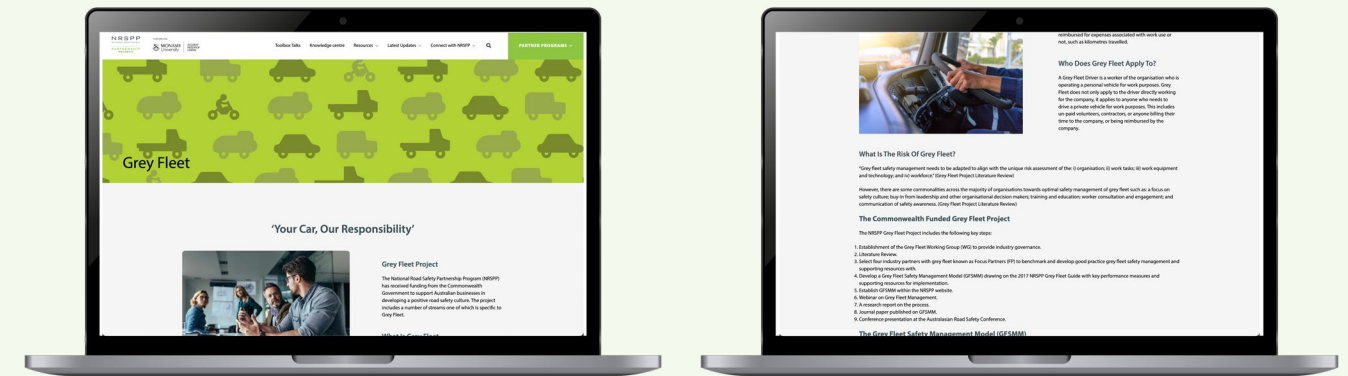


Our new subsites highlight our partnerships with other organisations, each featuring a unique design that reflects the collaboration and the identity of the partner we are showcasing.

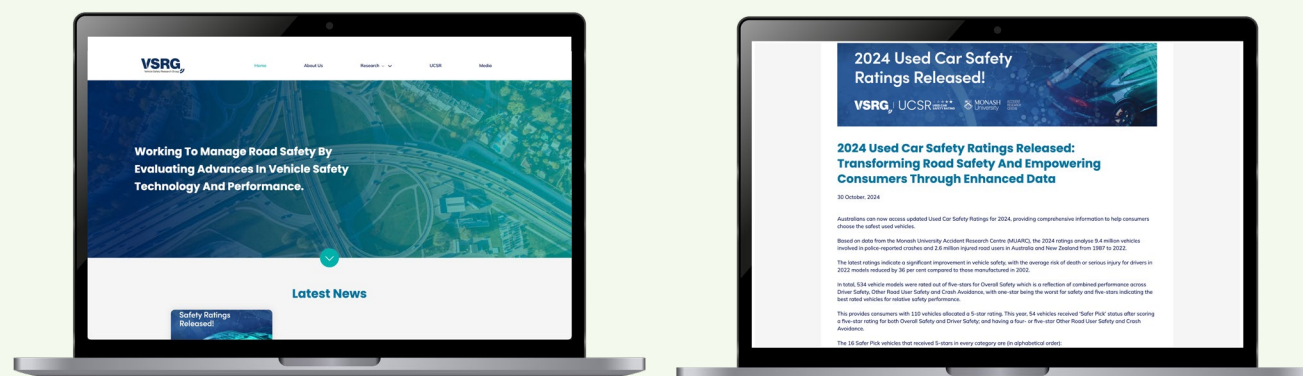
### NTARC Sub Site



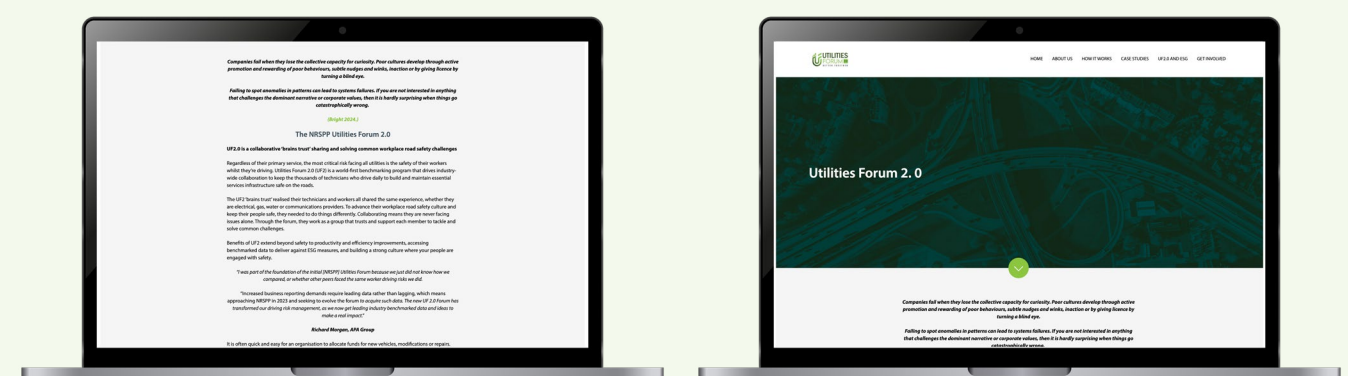
### Grey Fleet Sub Site



### VSRG Sub Site



### Utilities Forum 2.0 Sub Site







## An Example of Collaborative Success



In 2017, the NRSPP championed the introduction of a new safety initiative, Construction Logistics for Community Safety – Australia (CLOCS-A), adapted from the Transport for London's (TfL) CLOCS program. The NRSPP led a collaboration of diverse stakeholders to co-design the initiative and hosted a joint webinar, to promote its success in the UK and potential for adaptation in Australia. This became the launching pad for building buy-in for its introduction and bridging the divide between industry, government, community groups and researchers.

CLOCS-A gained traction in Australia due to large-scale investment in infrastructure, offering industry a consistent safety framework and delivering community and government benefits through an evidence-based standard. It was funded by the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, and supported by over 100 diverse stakeholders and in-kind industry contributions. Key to its success was the integration of CLOCS-A into the State and National Road Safety Strategy Action Plans and major projects integrating the Program into contract tenders.

In 2024, CLOCS-A became an independent entity under CLT-A, which now oversees its audit framework. NRSPP remains on the Steering Group and in 2025, BildGroup became the first business to be awarded CLOCS-A Bronze Accreditation.



## Supporting Safer Behaviours Among Younger Australians



In 2024-25, the NRSPP continued its ongoing support for Re:act, road safety behaviour change program that collaborated with industry and government to create peer-to-peer road safety campaigns targeting 17-25 year old drivers and vulnerable road users.

The selected campaigns in Victoria and Western Australia from Re:act 2024, which focused on mobile phone distraction Suicide in Road Transport Prevention

Launched in 2016, with eight design communication honours students from Swinburne University, Re:act has grown nationally and globally, with over 1,250 students across four continents that have participated. Campaigns developed through the program have reached an audience of more than 53 million.

NRSPP was an inaugural partner and has continued its support for Re:act each year in Victoria and Western Australia. Director Jerome Carslake also serves on the Re:act Advisory Group.

Each year, Re:act challenges Communication Design students to create campaigns that raise awareness of road safety issues and influence behaviour among 17-25 year olds, and their personal and professional networks.

Campaigns are shaped through three sessions facilitated by Re:act, with a panel of government road safety,

workplace safety and industry partners in each city providing feedback and selecting the most compelling road safety campaign. The campaign is then developed and launched by the out-of-home media partner oOh!media.

Re:act is included in multiple Australian state road safety action plans as an effective education program for young people and aligns with five United Nations sustainable development goals.

Topics are selected based on areas where young people are over-represented in road trauma.. Previous topics include safer interactions with trucks, distraction, fatigue, safer speeds, mobile phone use, safer vehicles, seatbelt use and shared responsibility.

To find out more about Re:act, visit [reactforchange.org](https://reactforchange.org)



# Suicide in Road Transport Prevention

Unlike rail network fatality data, suicide events on the road network are not captured systematically in road crash statistics. This fundamental difference in philosophy is at the heart of the Suicide in Road Transport Prevention project. When Dr Sarah Jones in her role at Toll Group explored a decade of fatalities in her organisation's data she identified a pattern of vehicular suicide events, worthy of further investigation.

From this important case study analysis emerged a new project, led by the NRSPP and with Austroads funding, which aimed to explore vehicular related suicides and provide potential solutions. One sector particularly impacted but unrecognised was the heavy vehicle sector, where drivers are directly impacted.. with drivers placed at risk of death, injury, and trauma. The distress impacts many people, including drivers of other vehicles, passengers, first responders, witnesses and bereaved family members.

Over the next two years NRSPP led a collaborative project with over 100 stakeholders, involving:

- Communications and design – how to safely talk about suicide led by Mindframe
- What is the data saying? – led by Griffith University
- What interventions can be applied to reduce the events from happening and provide a system of support – led by Griffith University

The final report was released by Austroads in 2023, the recommendations were broad reaching:

- The NRSPP signed onto the [Everymind National Communications Charter](#) which Advocates for and provides guidance on how to talk safely and respectfully about suicide;
- Recommendations for collecting data suicide in the transport system to better understand the problem; interventions to reduce them.
- The NRSPP developed [Look Beyond the Truck](#) which was released at the 2023 Brisbane Truck Show to humanise truck drivers. As part of Trucking Australia 2025, the NRSPP joined Healthy Heads Trucks and Sheds and Phoenix in launching a [trauma support package](#) for truck drivers involved in suicide incidents, sponsored through NTARC.



# Steering Committee Evolution



**Peter Divjakinja**

IAG/CGU

The National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) delivers immense value to the community by fostering collaboration between businesses, government agencies, and researchers to improve road safety. By providing evidence-based strategies, benchmarking tools, and industry-specific resources, NRSPP helps organizations implement effective safety measures that reduce road-related incidents, lower costs, and enhance productivity. The program also encourages a cultural shift, where road safety becomes a fundamental priority rather than just a compliance requirement. Through its initiatives, NRSPP addresses high-risk activities such as work-related vehicle crashes, which contribute significantly to road fatalities, ultimately making Australian roads safer for everyone.

This commitment to road safety aligns closely with Insurance Australia Group's (IAG) purpose, which is why IAG is a proud partner of NRSPP. As a leading motor vehicle insurer, IAG leverages its expertise in risk management, data analysis, and accident prevention to support NRSPP's objectives. The partnership allows IAG to contribute valuable insights into fleet safety, vehicle selection, and incident management, helping businesses adopt best practices that protect employees and the broader community. Additionally, IAG's involvement in NRSPP reinforces its dedication to making roads safer through collaboration, research, and advocacy, ensuring long-term improvements in road safety outcomes.



**Rachel Gunn**

Comm Bank

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) is proud to have been a founding partner of the National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) since its inception over a decade ago. From the outset, we have played a pivotal role in shaping the direction of the program and continue to serve as an active and committed member of its committee.

Our long-standing partnership reflects CBA's deep commitment to improving road safety for our employees, our customers, and the wider community. Over the years, we have implemented a range of preventative and protective controls related to work driving – most notably in the management of tool-of-trade and Grey Fleet vehicles. A key collaboration was the Grey Fleet Working Group, which tackled the distinct challenges of managing personal vehicles used for work purposes.

The value of our partnership with the NRSPP lies in its ability to bring together like-minded professionals, amplify evidence-based approaches, and foster innovation through collaboration. By leveraging NRSPP's broad stakeholder network, we have been able to introduce initiatives that raise awareness of driving risks, clarify roles and responsibilities, and strengthen driver accountability – particularly among our leaders.

These efforts have directly contributed to safer journeys, fewer incidents, and a stronger culture of safety. We encourage other organisations to actively engage with the NRSPP. By doing so, we can collectively build sustainable road safety programs that reduce risk and save lives.

The NRSPP continues to be a vital platform for sharing insights, resources, and proven practices – making it an invaluable partner in our shared ambition to create a safer future on our roads.



**Mace Hartley**

AfMA

A symbiotic relationship spanning 9 years, NRSPP offers a collaborative network to support Australian businesses in developing a positive road safety culture, whilst AfMA's mission is to link people and knowledge creating best practice safety, sustainability and effective outcomes.

AfMA has participated in several NRSPP working groups including the Safe Use of Mobile Phones in 2016, Grey Fleet Policy Development in 2017, Suicide in Road Transport Prevention in 2021, the current Grey Fleet Working Group, since 2023 hosted the Utilities Forum 2.0 group annually prior to its Fleet Education & Leadership Summit and has had the privilege to be an active member of NRSPP's steering committee since 2021.

AfMA's partnership with NRSPP assist's it to fulfill its obligations to the fleet and automotive industries by connecting its members and boarder fleet and automotive community with evidence-based research designed to not only increase productivity but to save lives.

A relationship built on mutual respect, a passion for people and safety, making a difference together!

# Steering Committee

## Insights from new members



**Jesse Strauss**

Amazon Flex

Amazon is pleased to join the National Road Safety Partnership Program as a new Steering Committee Partner in 2025. Since our initial engagement with NRSPP in 2022, Amazon Australia has been actively working to reshape the conversation around road safety in the modern parcel delivery sector. We are confident that our unique position as a technology company facilitating last-mile delivery through the Amazon Flex program will bring a fresh perspective to the NRSPP Steering Committee, particularly in addressing the evolving challenges in this space.

Our collaboration with NRSPP, through the On-Demand App-based Delivery Working Group, has highlighted the importance of working together with industry to share knowledge and provide leadership to enhance road safety outcomes in the growing delivery sector. What makes our partnership with NRSPP particularly valuable is the opportunity to share global insights and best practices from Amazon's worldwide operations while addressing the unique challenges of delivering in Australia. Through our involvement, we're working to bridge the gap between traditional fleet safety approaches and the new realities of technology-driven delivery services. Looking ahead, we see tremendous potential in combining NRSPP's collaborative approach with our own innovative technology solutions to create safer roads for all users. Our focus remains on developing scalable safety initiatives that can benefit not just Amazon Flex delivery partners but the broader community of road users across Australia.



**Scott Leahy**

Sodexo

We're proud to be part of the National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) and to support such an important initiative to improve road safety across Australia. NRSPP's support is a game-changer, especially for small to medium corporate fleets that might not have the resources of bigger organisations. Their tailored advice is helping make journeys safer for countless Australians, and it's amazing to see the positive impact firsthand.

At Sodexo, we manage a fleet of over 200 vehicles and safely transported over 4 million passengers in 2024, often through some of the toughest environments in the country. Being part of NRSPP's steering committee has been a great experience for us - not just to share what we've learned but also to pick up insights from others to improve road safety. I'd love to see every fleet across Australia take advantage of NRSPP's amazing resources, and I'm all in to help make that happen.

# Programs with the NRSPP

## NTARC



**Jasmine Proud**

Researcher at Monash Accident Research Centre

A new and groundbreaking partnership has been established between NTI, the National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP), and the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), forming NTARC. This Australian-first initiative marks a major step forward, with NTI leading the way by sharing its claims data with an independent third party.

Building on two decades of work, NTARC will deliver the 2025 Major Incident Investigation Report. Over time, the depth and diversity of NTI's data will offer valuable insights into key risks, supporting the development of targeted safety interventions, advancing research, and informing policy.

Beyond the report, NTARC is dedicated to a range of heavy vehicle road safety initiatives. Its work focuses on identifying and addressing preventable hazards in the sector to improve safety for all road users. Each initiative is grounded in clear, evidence-based insights designed to support practical, meaningful action—not to assign blame.



**Adam Gibson**

NTI

Employees in road transport are among the most likely people to be killed in their workplace of any industry in Australia. That means that the work we undertake at the National Truck Accident Research Centre (NTARC) has real world consequences.

Since the establishment of the NTARC within the NRSPP in late 2023, we've released our first Major Incident Investigation Report (MIIR) through the partnership, sharing information around the rates, distribution and mechanisms of serious truck crashes with Australia.

We've developed and released a heavy vehicle toolbox talk kit on inadequate following distance crashes. Supporting industry to manage a key crash mechanism identified within the MIIR.

Outside of this, NTARC has supported a range of industry programs to support improved safety in transport operations and continued to build our industry relationships and reach. It is a privilege and pleasure to be a part of this work and I look forward to the coming year.

# Programs with the NRSPP: NTARC



For over 20 years, the National Truck Accident Research Centre (NTARC) Major Accident Investigation Report has provided a vital, independent snapshot of crash trends within the Australian heavy vehicle industry. Drawing on NTI's extensive claims data, the report has served as a critical resource for industry stakeholders and policymakers alike.

As Australia's leading insurer for the heavy vehicle transport sector, NTI occupies a unique position within the market. This privileged access to rich, real-world data has enabled the production of the NTARC report, supporting evidence-based improvements in road freight safety across the nation.

Over the past five years, the NTARC report has undergone significant evolution, offering increasingly granular and actionable insights. Now, the launch of NTARC2.0 marks a pivotal shift: expanding beyond an annual review to a broader program that provides in-depth analysis, supporting resources, and ongoing research to better understand the key hazards faced by drivers in the heavy vehicle sector.

The NTARC2.0 initiative has been developed through a formal partnership between NTI, the NRSPP and MUARC. The collaboration is underpinned by direct sponsorship funding and the in-kind secondment of Adam Gibson—NTI's Transport Research Manager.

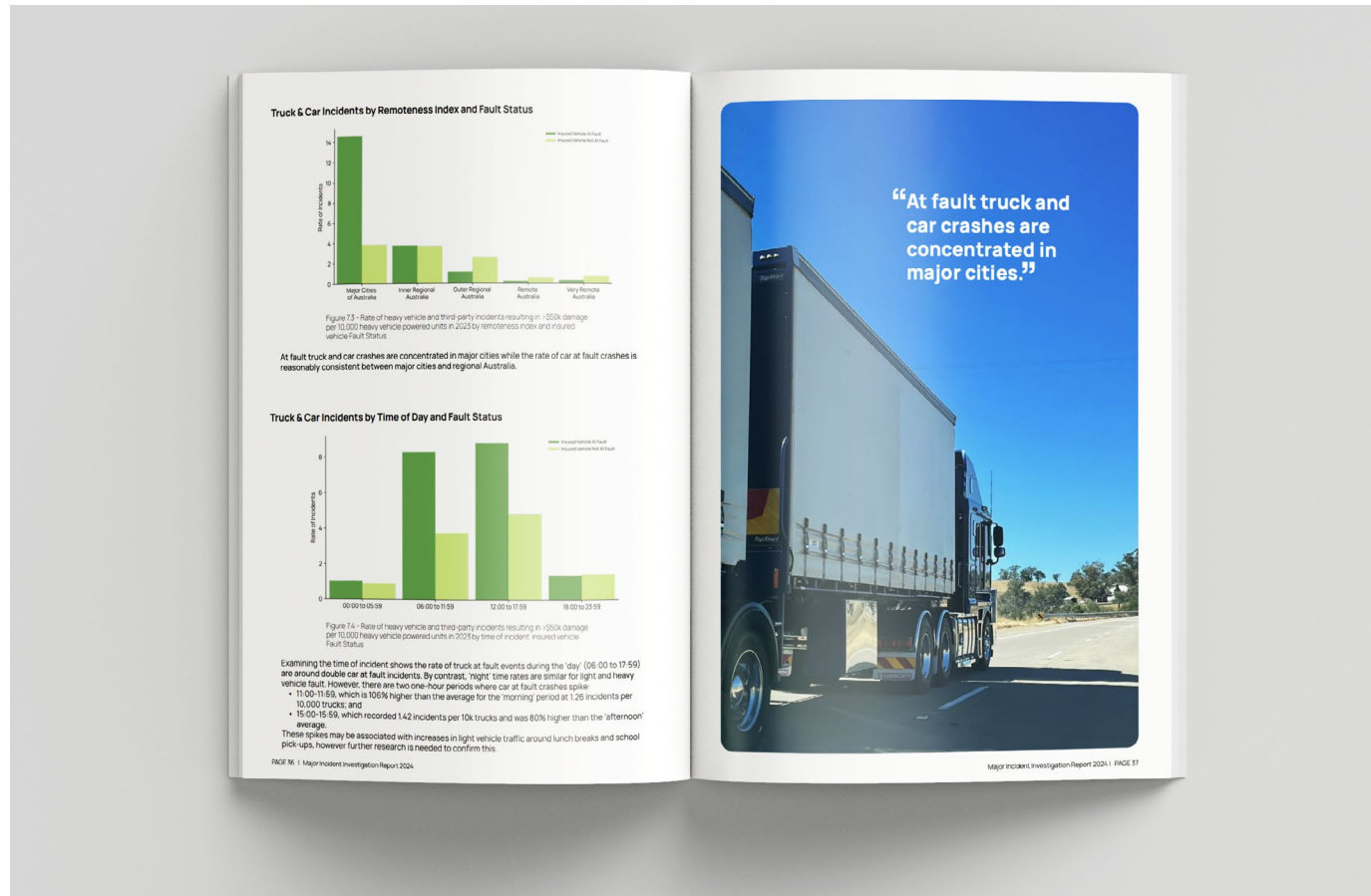
Adam also leads NTI's national dairy tanker crash-reduction initiative, Spilt Milk, and will play an instrumental role in providing guidance to Dr Jasmine Proud and the broader MUARC research team as they take stewardship of the report and expand its scope.

Dr Jasmine Proud is a research fellow, joining MUARC in 2024 as part of the NRSPP team to deliver the NTARC heavy vehicle incident report. Jasmine also works within the Injury Analysis & Data Team at MUARC.

### As part of this partnership:

- NTI has migrated its Spilt Milk training modules to the new NRSPP website, enhancing accessibility for industry.
- The partnership establishes a new research theme at MUARC, enabling broader academic access to NTI's incident data.
- All research projects will be overseen by the NRSPP and a newly established Research Governance Council.
- NTI is funding a PhD scholarship to continue and expand work on the Monash University's [Driver Health Survey](#).





The 2024 NTARC2.0 Major Incident Investigation Report, the 13th in the series, continues to transform real-world data into life-saving knowledge. It offers industry-wide safety statistics and trend analysis to help operators, regulators, and road users understand key risks and take informed action. Findings will be made freely available and promoted widely to maximise impact.

Access it on our website at <https://www.nrspp.org.au/ntarc/>

NTARC brings NTI's core purpose to life: ***"To make you safer and more sustainable."***



# Used Car Safety Ratings 2024



## Stuart Newstead

B.Sc.(Hons), M.Sc., Ph.D., A.Stat

Professor and Director of Monash  
University Accident Research Centre

The Vehicle Safety Research Group (VSRG) oversees a Research Program, carried out by MUARC using an extensive, vehicle specification enhanced database incorporating police reported crashes, vehicle register details and insurance claims records collected across Australia and New Zealand, dating back to 1987. The program commenced in the early 1990s with governance transitioning to the NRSPP from 1 July 2023.

The VSRG currently consists of nine government funders. The VSRG was originally a 15-member funded program with membership from government and auto-clubs, with total annual funding of \$405,000 (incl. GST). Under the NRSPP the funding increased to \$460,000 (plus GST) indexed by CPI to enhance the design of its communications.

The VSRG develops a three (3) year Research Program that identifies the projects agreed to be undertaken in the initial calendar year along with an indication of the projects expected to be undertaken in the following two (2) calendar years. A new three (3) year research project program is developed towards the end of each term in consultation with member organisations.

As part of the delivery of VSRG, NRSPP has partnered with the Swinburne University of Technology's Communication Bureau which developed the program's new brand and laid out the brochure for the annual Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR) release. The most recent update of the UCSR launched in 2024 and was calculated from real-world statistical analysis of more than 9.4 million vehicles involved in police-reported crashes and 2.6 million injured road users in Australia and New Zealand between 1987-2022.

In 2023, the ratings were expanded to focus on not only how a vehicle protects the driver, but also its impact on other road users in a crash and its crash avoidance technology.

**The new "Overall Safety" star rating assigned to each vehicle model combines the scores for:**

- Driver Safety: How well the vehicle protects its driver from being killed or seriously injured in a crash
- Other Road User Safety: How well the vehicle protects other drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists from being killed or seriously injured in a crash
- Crash Avoidance: The reduction in crash involvement risk resulting from the availability of proven crash avoidance technologies in the vehicle such as electronic stability control, autonomous emergency braking, lane keep assist, roll stability control and reversing cameras and sensors.

The new ratings received significant media coverage with the new communications and design engagement and coordinated release by its members.

# Forums

In 2024–25, the NRSPP led two major sector-focused forums: the Retail and Grocery Safety Forum (RGSF) and the enhanced Utilities Forum 2.0. Both forums aim to foster collaboration, share best practices, and drive improvements in workplace road safety.



# Retail and Safety Forum

The RGSF is a collaborative initiative led by the NRSPP in partnership with Ernst and Young, who generously host the forum sessions. The primary objective is to bring together key stakeholders across the retail and grocery sectors to explore strategies for improving safety, with a particular focus on vehicle-related risks in the workplace.

Modelled on the successful Utilities Forum format, the RGSF promotes cross-sector learning by featuring best practice examples from industry leaders, researchers, and other sectors. These sessions are designed to spark meaningful discussions and generate actionable insights. The RGSF meets twice a year with a combination of in-person and virtual spread across EY's offices in Australia and New Zealand.

## Notable Forum activities include:

- NRSPP Q&A: Workplace Driver Safety Performance
- ANCAP presentation on light truck safety testing
- HSE Global Case Study on fatigue management with retail and grocery supply chains
- Australian Automobile Association (AAA) shares current research including insights from research on the effectiveness, limitations, and opportunities of fatigue technology solutions.
- Case Study exploration: Introducing and exploring electronic pallet jack and tail gate loading safety management campaign.
- Healthy Heads Trucks and Sheds supporting drivers within the road transport sector.



## Retail and Grocery Safety Forum

## Utilities Forum 2.0

The Australian utilities sector is diverse, yet historically has lacked a cohesive platform for sharing workplace road safety practices across sub-sectors. In response, NRSPP established the original Utilities Forum in 2015, first hosted by SA Power Networks in Adelaide. Since then, the forum has been hosted by a range of partners including Telstra, Water Corporation, APA Group, Santos, and Optus.

In 2023–24, the forum transitioned to a new subscription-based model—Utilities Forum 2.0—designed to deliver deeper insights and benchmarking opportunities through an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) lens.

### Key activities of Utilities Forum 2.0 include:

- A comprehensive benchmarking process across participating organisations.
- Surveys and interviews with drivers and managers to understand organisational culture, attitudes towards driving for work, and internal safety policies and practices.
- Analysis that compares qualitative feedback with reported data to identify performance gaps and inform tailored safety improvements.
- Results are presented in closed Chatham House rules forum accompanied by an individual report of the analysis then a one-on-one presentations of the results and dashboard to further delve into the findings. The members use the one-on-one session to develop actions for the coming year and measure the impact at the next years forum.

In this reporting period, Hydro Tasmania hosted the forum in Hobart. The icebreaker session included a closed session with Ford who explored what the sector wants in their [new Ranger Super Duty](#).



# Working Groups

**The NRSPP operates a number of working groups to assist with the delivery of Special Projects including:**

- Grey Fleet WG is reviewing the 2017 Grey Fleet Guide and adapted it into the online Grey Fleet Safety Management Model (GFSMM). The WG consists of 20 partners of which four Focus Partners are testing the GFSMM which includes 13 measures to help guide businesses in developing a proactive grey fleet safety management culture. The WG will also produce nine grey fleet specific toolbox talks and a range of support guides and case studies and is funded through a Commonwealth road safety grant.
- Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talk Translation WG will translate 13 heavy vehicle toolbox talks into three languages which are Punjabi, Arabic and Simplified Chinese. The WG consists of 13 diverse partners with the translated packages to be released for National Safe Work Month and is funded by HVSI.
- Light Vehicle Toolbox Talk WG consists of nine partners and is producing 21 light vehicle toolbox talk packages, funded through a Commonwealth road safety grant.



# What's Ahead

As part of NRSPP 10+1 celebration for Safe work Month 2025, the NRSPP will be launching its Program Partner renewal which will introduce to businesses the ability to select a number of workplace road safety measures that relate to their operations and culture. The measures are inspired by the NRSPP's Utilities Forum that developed a framework for members to measure their workplace road safety culture and implement solutions to improve it.

Partners will select from a range of measures and choose whether to publicly report or keep the data to themselves. To remain current, the partner will have to update the performance tracking annually. The onus is entirely on the partner but the NRSPP will launch a number of supporting tools which can assist and if there are gaps in knowledge content the program can identify these and feed them into a work program for development.

Accompanying the new Partner Tool will be the online Grey Fleet Safety Management Model (GFSMM) which will provide organisations with the ability to develop an action plan with a short, medium- and long-term timeline. The GFSMM is based on 13 measures that are designed around cultural maturity, as grey fleet management is steadily improved the organisation will progress along 4 maturity levels and measure that change. The GFSMM will include a range of supporting materials to assist.

The NRSPP will also be launching the translation of 13 heavy vehicle toolbox talks into three languages, Arabic, Pubjabi and Simplified Chinese.

# Finances

The NRSPP commenced 2024/25 with a forecast operational budget of \$399,725 derived from its Core Funder base. However, the actual revenue for this period was \$349,725. The budget shortfall occurred due to an irregularity in the funding agreement sign-off for one of the Core Funders, identified in June 2025.

Notwithstanding this shortfall in core funding, the NRSPP received additional revenue of \$45,628, including a contribution of \$19,900 from Western Australian Road Safety Commission for sponsorship of the integration of Safe Teams into the NRSPP website to host the program's Toolbox Talk and several smaller amounts presentations and design work.

In sum, there was a deficit of \$25,628 for 2024/25 financial year.

Revenue		
Core Funders	Additional	TOTAL
349,725	45,628	395,535

Expenses			
Salary	Overheads	Other	TOTAL
182,823	34,947	206,086	423,881

# Special Thanks

## Funding Partners



## Steering Committee Partners



The National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) is proud to celebrate its 10+1 birthday in 2025. The program was launched by Prince Michael of Kent in Melbourne in 2014 as part of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

