

25.10.2021

The Hon Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister
Assistant Minister for Road Safety & Freight Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

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By email: Barnaby.Joyce.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) endorses the WHO / UN Global Plan Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021 – 2030, with its target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% during that period. We encourage the Government to embrace the Global Plan and commit to implementing the recommendations of the Plan.

RACS has an enduring commitment to the prevention of road trauma. Approximately one hundred people are hospitalized each day in Australia with injuries caused in road crashes. Surgeons contend with death and serious injuries caused by road trauma, treating injured patients on a daily basis – the majority of crashes causing these injuries are preventable. Approximately \$30 AUD billion are spent annually managing this silent epidemic.

RACS welcomes the prioritisation of data collection and data linkage referred to in the United Nations General Assembly resolution of August 2020 (74/299). Unfortunately, in 2021, Australia does not have the quality of nationally aggregated road crash injury hospitalization data delivered rapidly enough to effectively oversight road safety.

The RACS Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety in August 2021 recommended that priority be given to the following initiatives in the assessment of measures to eliminate road crash fatalities and serious injuries:

- Data enhancement and application
- ANZ Trauma Registry
- Trauma Verification
- Safe speed limits
- Point to point speed enforcement for all vehicles
- Safe Roads – regional
- Safe Roads - metropolitan
- Targets and accountability



RACS acknowledges the integral role trauma registries play in policy development and road safety. It recently co-signed a supplementary submission to the Senate Joint Select Committee on Road Safety highlighting how collection and linkage of data during the COVID pandemic assisted Australian Governments monitor and control the pandemic, and maintain community awareness. Daily updates on the number of intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital beds occupied by patients suffering COVID19 were provided. This standard should be matched with respect to road crash injury data.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sally Langley President Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	Prof Andrew Hill FRACS Chair Professional Standards and Advocacy Committee
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Prof Mark Frydenberg FRACS Chair Health Policy & Advocacy Committee	Dr John Crozier FRACS Chair Bi-National Trauma Committee
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