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# ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Zero death or serious injuries - the goal this festive season

Thursday 22 December, 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) urges motorists on Australian roads to drive safely as the busy holiday season approaches.

RACS Trauma Committee Chair John Crozier said: “The tragedy of death or serious injury from road traffic collisions is particularly poignant at Christmas and New Year, which should be festivals of celebration.”

“Speed, sleep deprivation, driver distraction and alcohol consumption contribute to preventable death and serious injury on our roads.

“Drivers need to be particularly mindful of these hazards at this time of year,” Dr Crozier said.

Last December and January, 196 people were killed on Australian roads, up from 191 the year before. Eight of these deaths occurred over the Christmas and New Year period.

Cyclists and motorcyclists are also reminded to wear appropriate protective clothing and helmets, despite the warmer months.

“Even a small amount of alcohol consumption substantially increases the risk of a crash.

“The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons wishes everyone a safe and happy festive season, however, if you do intend to travel on these busier roads please be mindful of your speed, drive rested, avoid distraction; and if you do drink alcohol, don’t drive.

“Drivers, please make zero deaths or serious injuries on Australian roads your goal this festive season,” Dr Crozier said.

#### About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

[www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org)

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