



## Office of the Minister for Public Transport and Roads

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GPO Box 2797  
Melbourne Victoria 3001  
Telephone: (03) 9095 4330  
Facsimile: (03) 9095 4483  
www.vic.gov.au  
DX 210410.

Mr Richard Prowse  
PO Box 186  
**CHIRNSIDE PARK VIC 3116**

Dear Mr Prowse

### **PEDESTRIAN DEATHS AND INJURIES IN MILDURA 2006 CRASH**

I refer to your email dated 13 January 2011, addressed to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese MP, regarding the deaths of your niece and nephew. Your correspondence has been referred to this office for reply as it concerns matters under Victoria's jurisdiction.

Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss.

Victoria, with 4.9 deaths per 100,000 people has the lowest road toll of any state in Australia. The Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics publishes road death rates across Australia and compares each jurisdiction. You may wish to view these statistics at <http://bitre.gov.au>.

In Victoria in 2010 there were 288 road deaths, which is the lowest figure in recorded history. These achievements have occurred because Victoria takes an evidence based approach to road safety, with a focus on implementing initiatives shown by research to provide improved safety outcomes.

With regard to traffic laws over recent years, Victoria has increased the penalties for many offences and has introduced new offences to tackle unsafe driver behaviour. This includes vehicle impoundment and forfeiture laws.

Victoria will be introducing changes to further toughen vehicle impoundment and forfeiture laws for high risk driving offenders to reduce the damage to Victorian families caused by this reckless and anti-social behaviour.

These new laws will include the immediate 30-day vehicle impoundment for a first relevant offence, increasing the period for which a second offence is calculated from three to six years and introducing a requirement that offenders undertake a safe driving course. In addition repeat drink drive and drug offenders and repeat unlicensed drivers will also be subject to these new laws.

Any loss of life on our roads is tragic and the Victorian Government will continue to work towards reducing the road toll.

The Minister for Roads is responsible for traffic related laws not criminal offences, such as culpable driving. As such, I am unable to comment on the outcome of a court case where a driver is charged with culpable driving, or your experience with the justice system. However, I have referred your email to my colleague the Attorney General, the Hon Robert Clark MP, and have asked him to reply to you directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write in these difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely



**Edward O'Donohue MLC**  
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport

16 / 5 / 2011