



The Hon Catherine King MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport

22 MAR 2011

Reference: 00292-2011

Mr Richard Prowse
PO Box 186
CHIRNSIDE PARK VIC 3116

Dear Mr Prowse

Thank you for your email dated 13 January 2011 to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, about road safety. As road safety falls within my responsibility, your email has been forwarded to me for reply.

Please allow me to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family for the loss of your niece and nephew. Your letter is a potent reminder of the deep and long lasting impact that road trauma can have on Australian families and communities.

The Australian Government places a high priority on road safety and is committed to achieving further reductions in road trauma. As you may be aware, I recently released the draft *National Road Safety Strategy 2011–2020*, which outlines ambitious goals for road safety improvement and proposes a wide-ranging agenda for national action. It is envisaged that the new strategy will deliver at least a 30 per cent reduction in road deaths and serious injuries over the coming decade.

In releasing the draft strategy for public consultation I invited all Australians to have their say on road safety. While governments are ultimately responsible for setting public policy, I believe it is important to promote informed community discussion, particularly in areas that affect people's day to day lives. In this context, I appreciate you taking the time to write to me about your experiences and views on road safety.

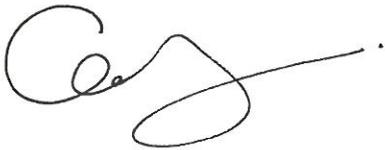
Although most road users respect the law and use our roads sensibly, some people do break the road laws frequently and put themselves and others at unacceptable risk. We clearly have a great challenge in trying to stop this kind of behaviour, but I remain optimistic that we have the knowledge and tools to create a much safer road transport system. Behavioural measures, both regulatory and educational, will play a role in this regard, but there is also much we can do through proven road infrastructure and vehicle design measures to develop a more protective environment for all road users.

A wide range of options to improve behaviour and the safety of our road system are included in the draft National Road Safety Strategy. The draft was released for a 12 week period of public consideration and comment which closed on 18 February. The draft strategy is now under review in the light of public and industry feedback and will be considered by the ATC with a view to launching the finalised Strategy later in the year.

I have noted your comments about the adequacy of road traffic laws and penalties, and your specific concerns about current legal processes and associated family support services. As these are primarily areas of state and territory government responsibility, I have sent a copy of your correspondence to the Hon Terry Mulder MP, Victorian Minister for Roads, for consideration.

Thank you again for bringing your thoughts and concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Catherine King', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CATHERINE KING