



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government**

File Reference: 06699-2009

Mr Richard Prowse  
PO Box 186  
CHIRNSIDE PARK VIC 3116

Dear Mr Prowse

Thank you for your email dated 29 August 2009 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, about the consequences of drink driving and speeding. As the matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, your email was referred to him for consideration. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Your email highlights the far-reaching effects of road trauma on the Australian community, and the need to deal effectively with both the causes and the tragic aftermath of road crashes.

The Australian Government has a leadership role in road safety and it works closely with the states and territories to establish national goals and directions for road safety improvement. Late last year, the Australian Transport Council (ATC), comprising federal, state and territory Transport Ministers, released the *National Road Safety Action Plan 2009 and 2010*. The Action Plan sets out a comprehensive package of road safety measures, including initiatives to reduce the incidence of speeding and drink driving. It is available from the ATC website at: <[www.atcouncil.gov.au](http://www.atcouncil.gov.au)>.

Work has also commenced on the preparation of a new 10-year National Road Safety Strategy, expected to come into effect at the beginning of 2011. The strategy will be developed in consultation with representatives from relevant community, industry, and government organisations. Further information will be available from the ATC website as work progresses.

I note your specific concerns about the adequacy of Australia's trauma response processes, particularly in areas such as hospital management, family support services, and legal and insurance processes. These are clearly very important issues and are areas of state and

territory government responsibility. You may therefore wish to raise these matters with the relevant Ministers in your home state of Victoria. Contact details are available from the Victorian Government's website at: <[www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)>.

Thank you again for sharing your views with the Australian Government.

Yours sincerely



Leslie Riggs  
Executive Director  
Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy

*LR* September 2009