

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
Parliament House, Canberra

By email: greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Hunt,

Re: Global Plan for Second Decade of Action on Road Safety 2021-2030

As you would be aware, the World Health Organization recently launched its [Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030](#). The Australasian College of Road Safety supports this plan with its goal of reducing deaths and serious injuries by at least 50% by 2030. We encourage the Government to implement the recommendations in the Plan.

Key to those recommendations, is the importance of making road safety a political priority, and public reporting of measurable performance indicators including the number of deaths and serious injuries. In Australia, despite a \$30 billion annual cost of road trauma, we currently do not have quality, appropriate, national data available on road crash injuries. The Plan recognises the need for linkages among sectors such as police, health and transport, and ACRS urges the Government to improve those linkages in Australia to allow timely and accurate data to be available. Without this information, we are unable to effectively oversee road safety.

While we understand and acknowledge the time and processes involved in creating nationally comparable data sets, the phenomenal response from the health sector to the need for real time data during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown what is possible.

It may be tempting in Australia to look at our declining fatality rates from road crashes and think that we are on the right track. However, the rising rates of serious injuries from road trauma are a hidden and costly truth. From 2011 to 2018 (the most recent year of data available), the number of serious injuries each year increased by 16%.¹ Each one of these hospitalisations costs around \$260,000.² It is only with timely and accurate data that we can better understand and address this alarming issue and decrease the preventable burden it places on our hospital and health systems.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ingrid Johnston
CEO, Australasian College of Road Safety

23 November 2021

¹ [Road trauma Australia 2020 statistical summary \(bitre.gov.au\)](#)

² Cost reported at \$239,000 in 2015, plus allowing 10% inflation to 2021. https://www.aaa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/AAA-ECON-Cost-of-road-trauma-summary-report_Sep-2017.pdf