



The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Deputy Leader of the House
Member for Gippsland

PDR ID: MC17-003466

Mr Terry Birss
Chief Executive Officer
Managing Director
Road Safety Education Limited
10 Julius Avenue
NORTH RYDE NSW 2113

Dear Mr Birss

I am writing to thank you for the support your organisation has provided as a Principal Partner of Yellow Ribbon Road Safety Week. The Commonwealth was pleased to take a leadership role in this year's UN Global Road Safety Week (8-14 May 2017) which was conducted as part of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, it's official goal being to 'stabilise and then reduce' global road traffic fatalities by 2020.

While during that week, the spotlight was on the challenge to reduce the unacceptable road deaths and trauma, I also recognise and support those initiatives that continue throughout the year and which are already making a real difference.

Last year, road deaths stood at 1,300 deaths, with 264 from the youth age group.

This reflects a 28% decrease in overall road deaths, and importantly shows an encouraging 46% decrease in the 17-25 age group. It also provides evidence that the graduated licensing schemes for novice drivers and an increased focus on youth driver education, through programs such as RYDA, are having a significant impact in helping to save the young lives of our vulnerable road users.

However, it remains a tragedy that 264 young people lost their lives on Australian roads last year and more must be done.

During National Road Safety Week 2017, your organisation celebrated an important milestone – 500,000 students have now attended the RYDA program, whilst 50,000 students continue to attend each and every year.

In recognising this achievement, I want to acknowledge your organisation and thank you for your continued commitment to improving road safety in Australia.

Yours sincerely

DARREN CHESTER