



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

5 DECEMBER 1989

The Commonwealth Government has decided to take further action to reduce the national road toll and improve the efficiency of safety regulation of road transport, by inviting the States to adopt the following uniform measures on a co-ordinated basis:

- . national .05 level alcohol limit
- . national licensing of heavy truck and bus drivers
- . national uniform speed limits
- . speed limiters for heavy vehicles.
- . adopt zero alcohol limits for young drivers
- . increase enforcement to ensure that 1 in 4 drivers are random breath-tested for alcohol in a year
- . implement a graduated licensing system for young drivers
- . introduce compulsory bicycle helmet wearing
- . introduce daylight running lights for motorcyclists
- . increase enforcement of seat belt and child restraint wearing.

I trust all States will perceive the benefit to Australians travelling on our roads from this package. It's time we stopped pretending that each State has got the finest road laws imaginable and started catering effectively for the massive level of inter-State road transport. Motorists and the trucking industry both desperately need uniform laws.

I anticipate that Bob Brown will be holding a meeting of State Ministers before Christmas to initiate this program.

I will be writing to State Premiers this week with the broad outline of the package.

As evidence of the Commonwealth's genuine desire to obtain these national benefits for all Australians, we will also offer to those States and Territories which give a commitment to implementing this package by 1 July 1990, additional road funding for the purpose of eliminating known 'black spots' - intersections, bridgeworks or other traffic points noted for involvement in accidents.

For this purpose, the Commonwealth will make available up to \$110m over the next three financial years for this purpose.

A separate and additional \$10m will support extra research into vehicle design and other strategic issues, and public education programs aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour relating to issues such as drink driving, speed and aggression.

In particular, there will be continued financial support for injury prevention programs, such as the Australian Injury Prevention Program and its associated national injury surveillance system. \$250,000 a year will be provided to improve the collection of injury data.

These actions are in addition to those outlined by Bob Brown on 26 October.

I pay tribute in the development of this proposal to Sir Dennis Paterson, President of the International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, whom I met earlier this year. As a result of his advocacy of the need for the Commonwealth to take the lead in this area, I asked Bob Brown and Neal Blewett to put together this package.

I trust that the States will recognise its value and cooperate with it.