



VICTORIA POLICE

The Safe System Approach and Older Drivers

An important safety message from
Assistant Commissioner Doug Fryer

Road Safety for Older Pedestrians

A safety message from Victoria Police

The National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 is firmly based on the Safe System approach to road safety and is underpinned by the belief that no person should be killed or seriously injured on Australia's roads. Victoria's Road Safety Strategy, *Towards Zero 2016-2020*, likewise, embraces this vision.

The Safe System approach to road safety is a holistic approach that focuses on the four key pillars of the transport system being vehicles, roads and roadsides, speeds and road users. It seeks to manage the interactions between these elements, so that crash energies are minimised in the event of a collision and death and serious injury is prevented.

Older drivers have particular needs within a Safe System framework. These include:

Vehicles: A car that provides the greatest protection possible in the event of a crash. Modified vehicles (as required) to support individual driver needs and enhance driving capacity and safety.

Roads and roadsides: Appropriately engineered and designed environments, particularly car parks and urban intersections.

Speeds: Lower speeds at intersections and in areas with higher pedestrian activity

Road users: Monitoring changes to health and the impact on safety when driving, riding or walking and self-regulating behaviour as required.

Drivers over 60 are the fastest growing age group of drivers on Victorian roads (*Victoria's Road Safety Strategy & Action Plan, Towards Zero 2016 -2020*).

It is, therefore, important in moving forward within the Safe System space that measures are supported that enable older drivers to continue driving safely; - ensuring social connectedness, independence and access to essential services.