

Parents can reduce P-plate crashes

Parents of P-plate drivers are being targeted in a new campaign designed to reduce death and injury on Australian roads.

Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) has launched a program into P-plate driver safety information targeted aimed for the first time in Australia specifically at parents. Research shows probationary drivers are more involved in crashes than any other driving group and are up to an estimated 33 times more likely to have a crash than learner drivers. *Going Solo - A resource for parents of P-plate drivers* was devised by

MUARC Senior Research Fellow, Dr Jennie Oxley and her research team.

It informs parents about P-plate driver crash risks and strategies they can use to promote safe driving.

The booklet, available across Australia, highlights nine key risk factors, including driving with friends, driving at night, using phones or a CD player and driving when tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Parents are being encouraged to sign a Vehicle Access Agreement with their son or daughter.

The formal agreement sets out conditions and restrictions for the first twelve months of the P-plate period, limiting the time a young person can drive and the number of passengers they carry.

In the first three months of gaining a probationary license, the



“P-plate drivers have over 30 per cent of their crashes at night even though only 9 per cent of their driving occurs during that time”

driver would agree to only drive between 6am and 10pm and not carry any passengers aged 16 to 23.

After seven months experience they would be allowed to drive from 6am to midnight and carry a maximum of one young passenger.

Dr Oxley said parents had a major role to play and communication was the key.

“Parents who continue to discuss safe driving with their P-plater could help prevent crashes and potentially even save lives,” Dr Oxley said.

iDriving with a car full of friends increases the fatal crash risk by four times, compared with driving alone.

iP-plate drivers have over 30 per cent of their crashes at night even though only 9 per cent of their driving occurs during that time,¹ she said.

The *Going Solo* brochure

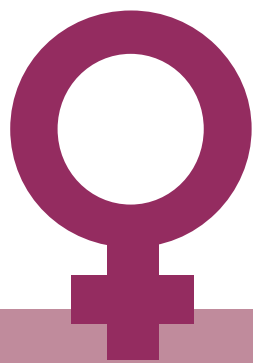
is available free at Mobil Service Stations.

Other research conducted by MUARC last month has confirmed the popular belief that white is the safest choice when it came to being visible and safe on the road.

Black coloured cars are more likely to be involved in a crash, according to definitive new research linking road safety and vehicle colour.

Compared to white vehicles, black cars had a 12 per cent higher crash risk, closely followed by grey cars with 11 per cent higher risk. Silver vehicles were next, with 10 per cent, then blue and red at 7 per cent. ²

The Women's Clinic on Richmond Hill



We believe in providing the sort of healthcare we would want for ourselves, daughters, mothers, sisters and friends.

- Family Planning
- Abortion Information
- Abortion
- Breast Feeding Support
- Breast Cancer Support
- Sexual Health
- Complimentary Therapies
- Counselling, Psychotherapy

Reception Hours Mon - Fri 8:00am-6.00pm. Sat. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

366 Church Street Richmond Victoria Australia 3121
Phone 9427 0399 www.womensclinic.com.au



**IT'S NOT SUPPLEMENTS!
IT'S FITROCK**

**50% off
Joining Fee**

Student introductory price
ONLY \$25.00
per FORTNIGHT - NO CONTRACTS
*Conditions apply



FITROCK 

Strength + Well Being

246 Church Street, Richmond
9427 8994
www.fitrock.com.au

**Last chance to beat
the price rise
Hurry Limited offer!!**
Offer is valid until 11th August '07