



Messages

message from Kym Bills



Message from Mr Kym Bills, Executive Director, Australian Transport Safety Bureau

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is privileged to be involved in the initiatives around the world to commemorate World Health Day 2004. World Health Day 2004 will no doubt focus worldwide attention on the need to effectively address one of the world's most important public health problems: the carnage on the world's roads. This publication is intended to augment that effort.

The ATSB is part of the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services and the ATSB's objective is 'safe transport'. We therefore have a strong commitment to furthering the national road safety agenda and contributing to achieving ever higher levels of safety on Australia's extensive road system. The ATSB aims to improve national road safety by undertaking research projects; collecting, analysing and

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publishing data and statistics; coordinating the National Road Safety Strategy and Action Plans; and providing safety, education and information services.

Since the advent of motorisation, over 171 000 people have died on Australia's roads. In 2003, 1 634 people died on our roads and over 22 000 sustained serious injuries. The social and economic burden of road crashes is astounding. There is much that is being done and can still be done to mitigate this problem, and the ATSB seeks to remain in the vanguard of the national and international effort.

This publication essentially brings together some of the work of the ATSB and information from other related bodies. It is intended as a source of information and a reference document on a range

of key topics in road safety. The availability of this publication on the ATSB's website will further enhance its usefulness and make it more widely available. I thank my colleague, Joe Motha, and his team for the development of this very useful publication.

I hope that the motto of World Health Day 2004 *Road Safety Is No Accident* will reverberate around the world and create a fresh and powerful international impetus to contend with the vexing problem that has been described as the 'war on the roads'.



KYM BILLS



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