



# BENCHMARKING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY



Australian  
Automobile  
Association

December 2016





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## Key Changes

# Key Changes Since September 2016 Report

There has been an increase in the number of road fatalities from the September 2016 quarter to the December 2016 quarter. The 12 months to December 2016 recorded an increase in fatalities compared with the same period in 2015. The increase in fatalities is concerning, and the data indicate that the NRSS target for reduction in fatalities may not be achieved. The ability to achieve the targeted reductions in serious injuries is also unclear.

### Analytical key

- Green**  
 On track to meet or exceed NRSS target. Reduction in road crash fatalities equal to or greater than the rate required to achieve NRSS target.
- Amber**  
 Currently ahead of (notional) target but faster rate of improvement required to achieve NRSS target by 2020.
- Red**  
 Road crash fatalities are above the notional NRSS target.

### Current National Status

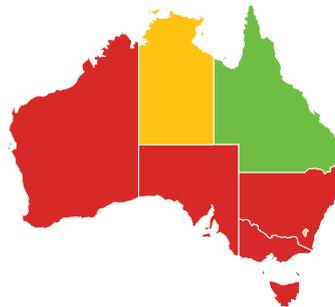
**Red**



NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Amber
WA	Red
TAS	Red
NT	Red
ACT	Amber

### Previous National Status

**Red**



NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Green
SA	Red
WA	Red
TAS	Red
NT	Amber
ACT	Amber

### User Groups

#### Previous

#### Current

User Groups	Previous	Current
Drivers	Red	Red
Passengers	Green	Green
Pedestrians	Red	Red
Motorcyclists	Red	Red
Cyclists	Red	Red

Note: The data used to produce this information have been sourced from the Australian Road Deaths Database: [www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal\\_road\\_crash\\_database.aspx](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx), accessed on 13 January 2017 and Road Deaths Australia December 2016 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168.

# Australia's Road Toll: December 2016

## Rising trend in road deaths confirmed

The Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) Benchmarking of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) tracks progress against the NRSS target of reducing road deaths by at least 30 per cent by 2020. All Australian governments committed to this strategy in 2011.

The report finds that in the year to December 2016, there was a 7.9 per cent increase in the number of deaths on our roads. This means the annual road toll for December 2016 is the worst since March 2013, and the same as May 2011. In effect, these results are little better than when the NRSS was agreed to more than five years ago. In total in 2016 1,300 people died on our roads, 95 more than in 2015.

Along with those killed, somewhere in the order of 32,500 Australians are seriously injured on our roads each year. That's 625 Australians suffering life changing injury on our roads each week in addition to the 25 killed. In no other aspect of Australian life would these levels of death and injury be tolerated. They cannot be tolerated on our roads.

Road deaths and injuries are preventable, yet the road toll is increasing. And while road safety is everyone's responsibility, now is not the time for governments to diminish their investment in safer roads and drivers.

We need to understand the causes of the increased road toll, especially when advances in design and technology mean safer cars are available and our roads should be safer. To this end, the AAA will be calling on the Australian Government to establish an inquiry capable of helping determine the causes of the dramatic increases being observed and identify measures capable of reversing this trend.



**Michael Bradley**

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Chief Executive  
Australian Automobile Association

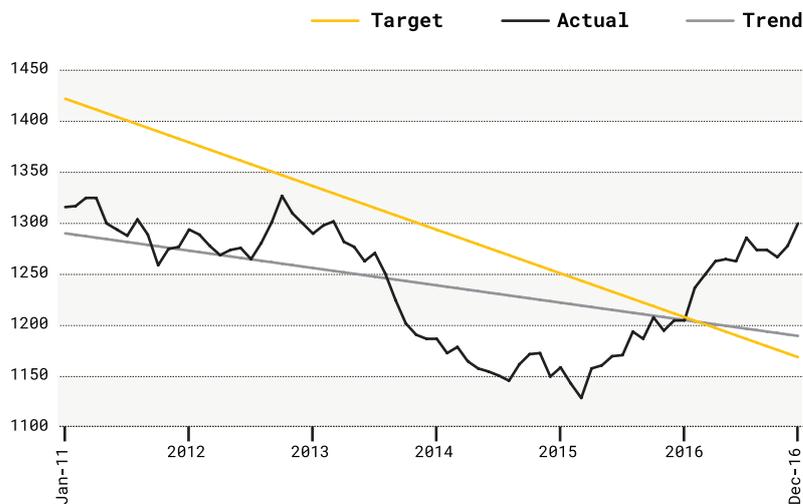


## Section One

# National Overview

**National (Australia) fatalities per annum**

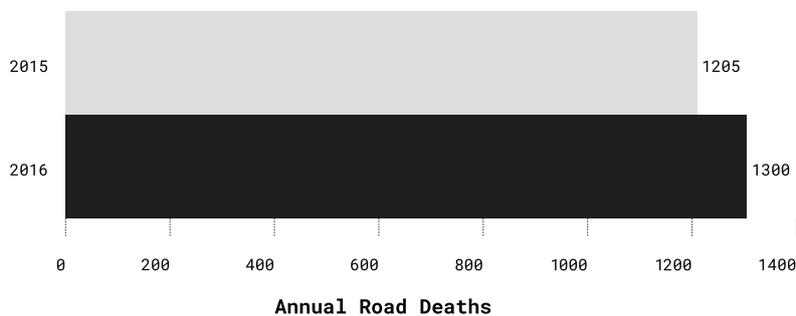
**Red**



The NRSS aims to achieve a reduction of at least 30 per cent in road fatalities and serious injuries by 2020. Since the road safety strategy commenced, we have seen a 3.8 per cent decline in the 12-month road toll, which is lower than the rate required to achieve the 2020 target.

In 2016, there were 1,300 fatalities on Australian roads, an increase from 1,205 in the previous calendar year. There were 341 fatalities in the quarter ending December 2016, a 6.2 per cent increase on the 321 recorded in the quarter ending September 2016.

**Comparative Performance – Past 12 Months**



**Yearly Comparison – Deaths to December**

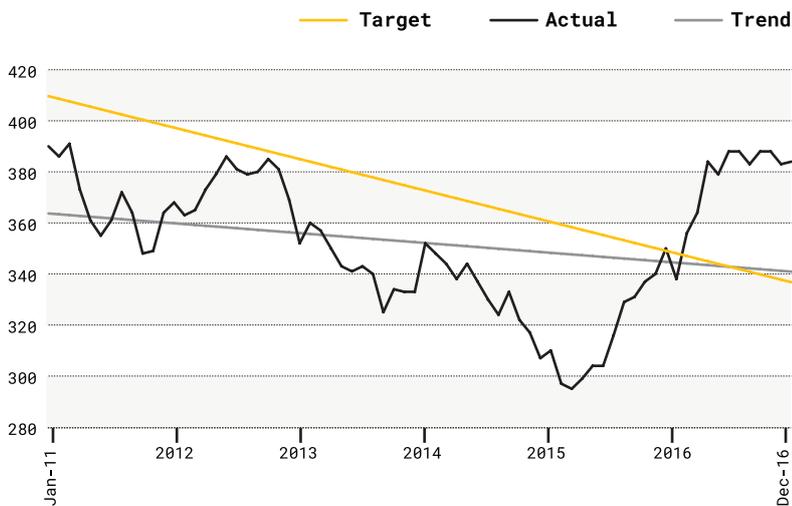
There has been a 7.9 per cent increase in the road toll in the 12 months ending December 2016, compared with a year earlier.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and Territories

### New South Wales fatalities per annum

Red

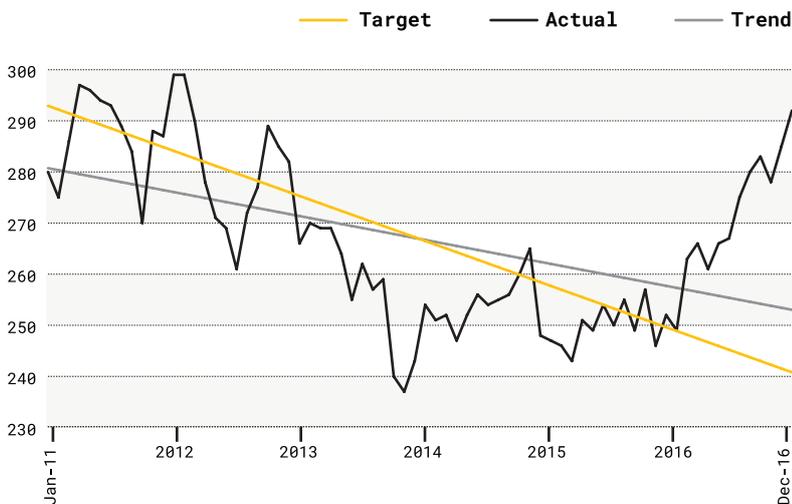


- 384 road deaths occurred in the 12 months ending December 2016, compared to 350 deaths in the same period in 2015.

- An increase of 9.7 per cent.

### Victoria fatalities per annum

Red



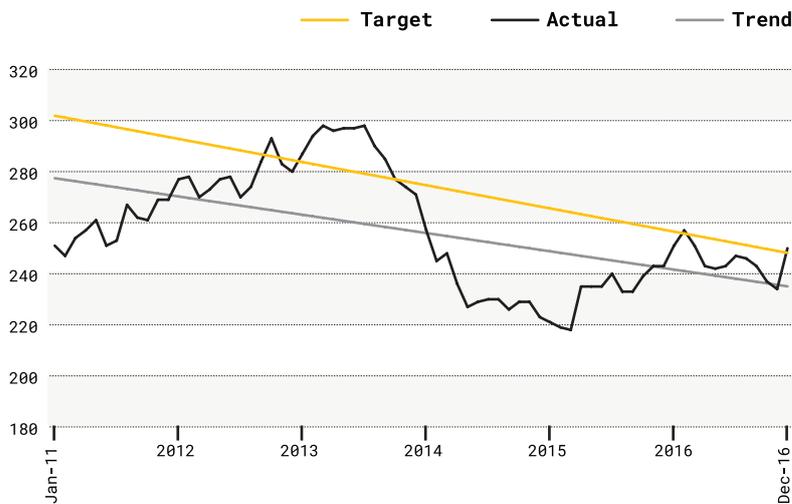
- In the past 12 months, Victoria recorded 292 deaths, compared to 252 deaths in the same period in 2015.

- This is a 15.9 per cent increase on a year earlier.

## Section Two

### Queensland fatalities per annum

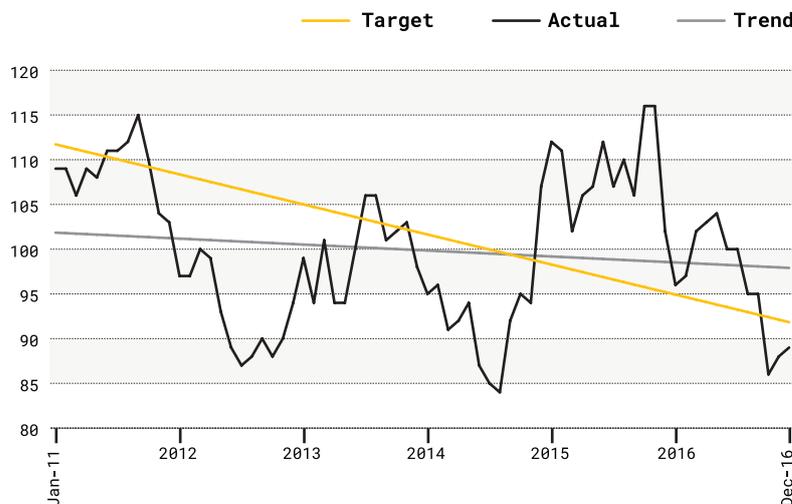
Red



- In the past 12 months, 250 people have died on Queensland roads, compared to 243 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- A 2.9 per cent increase on a year ago.

### South Australia fatalities per annum

Amber



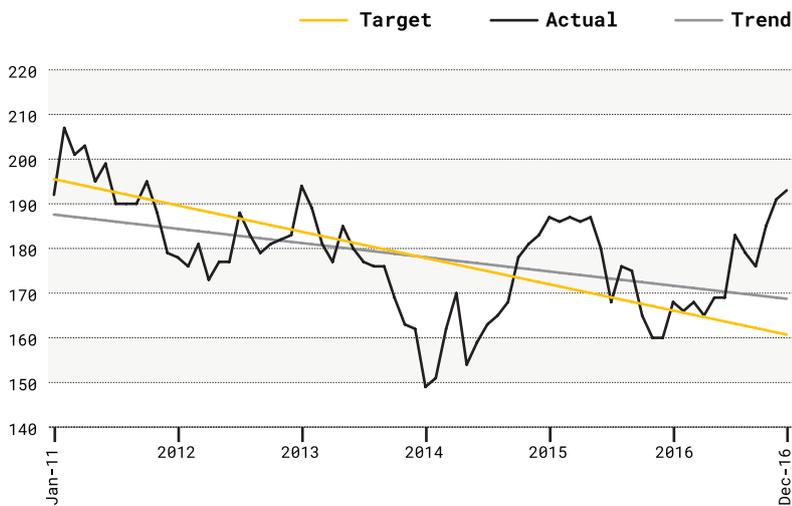
- In the past 12 months, 89 deaths occurred on South Australian roads, compared to 102 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- A decrease of 12.7 per cent over the past year.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and Territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

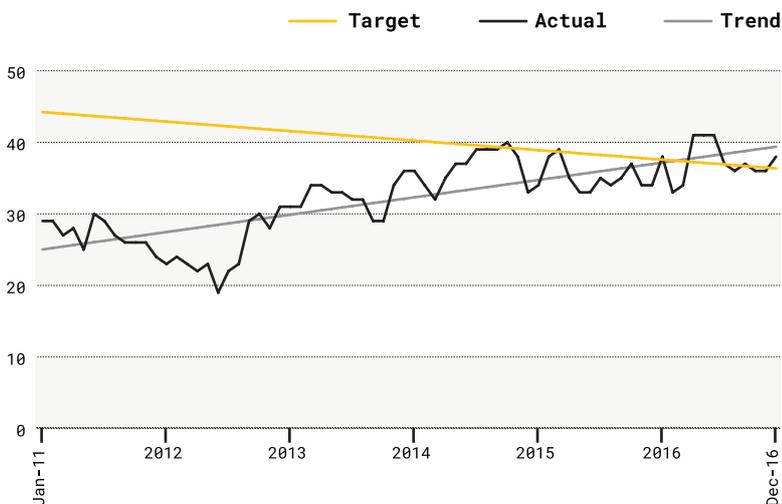
Red



- In the past 12 months, 193 people were killed on Western Australian roads, up from 160 over the same period in 2015.
- This is a 20.6 per cent increase on a year earlier.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

Red

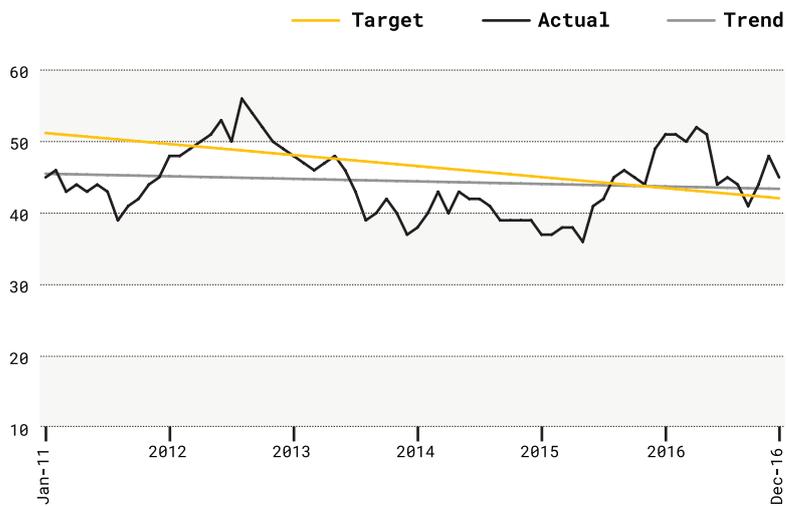


- In the past 12 months, 38 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 34 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- This is an 11.8 per cent increase on a year earlier.

## Section Two

Northern Territory fatalities per annum

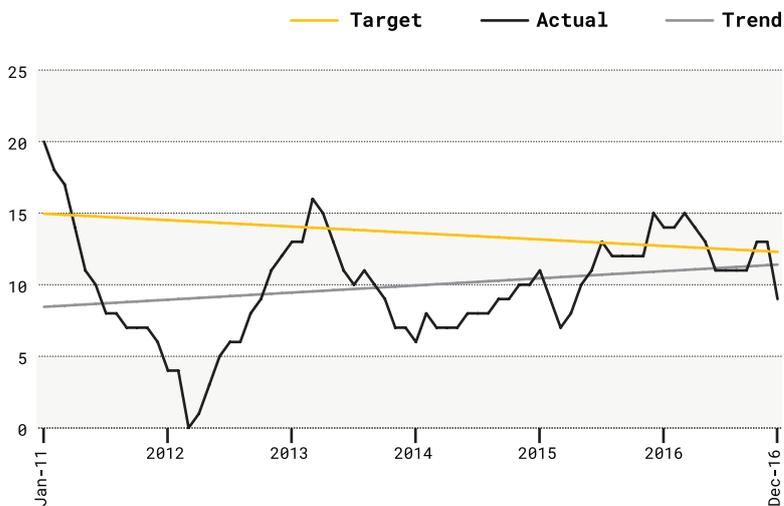
Red



- In the past 12 months, 45 people died on Northern Territory roads, down from 49 in the same period in 2015.
- This is an 8.2 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

Amber



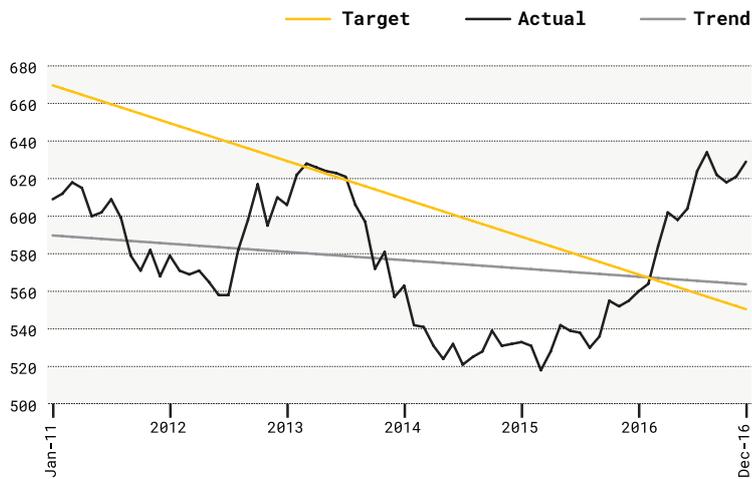
- The ACT recorded 9 deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 15 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- This is a 40 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

## Section Three

# Analysis: Road User Groups

### Drivers fatalities per annum

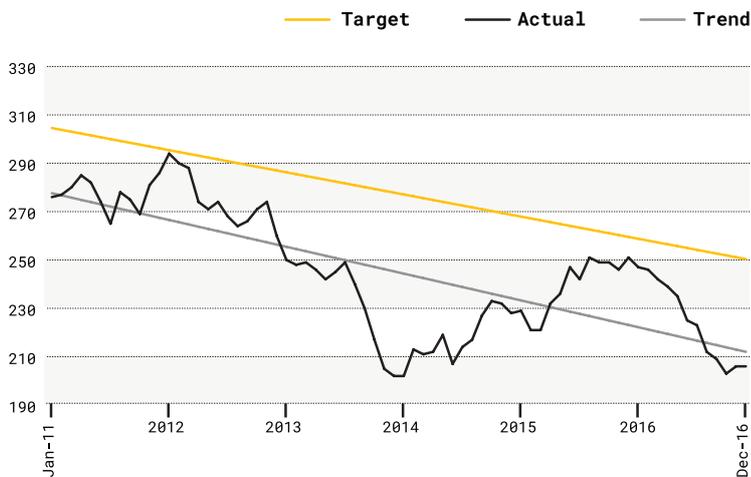
Red



- There have been 629 driver deaths on Australian roads in the past 12 months, an increase from 555 that occurred in the corresponding period in 2015.
- An increase of 13.3 per cent over the past year.

### Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

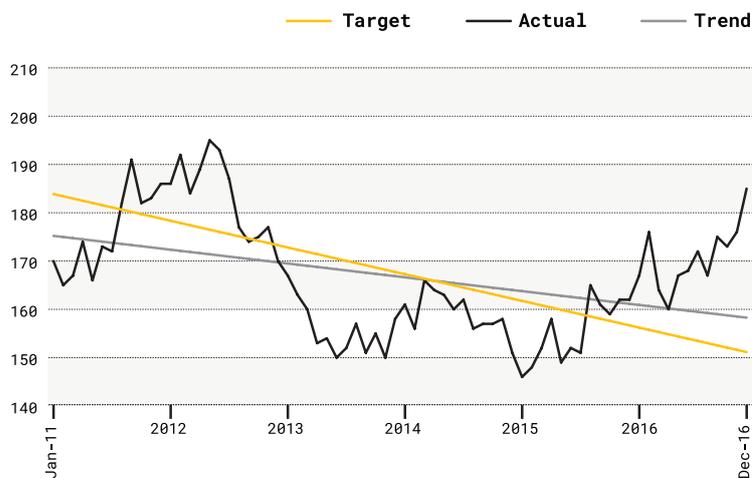


- In the past 12 months, 206 deaths on Australian roads have been passengers, compared with 251 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This is a decrease of 17.9 per cent.

## Section Three

### Pedestrians fatalities per annum

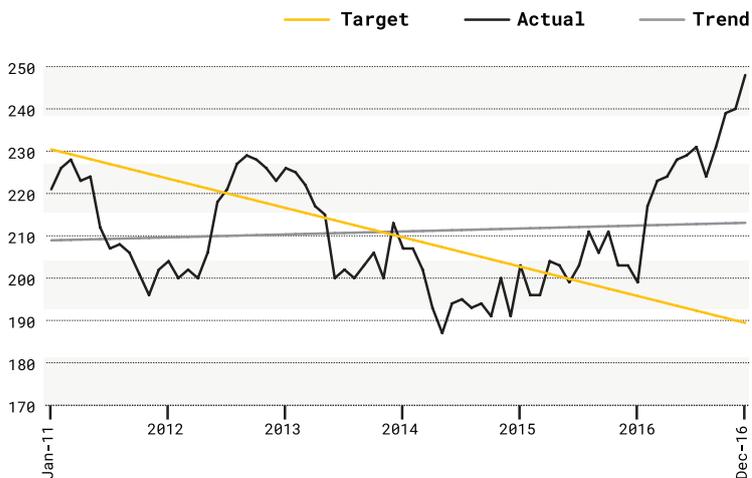
Red



- There have been 185 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads over the 12 months, an increase from 162 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This represents an increase of 14.2 per cent.

### Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



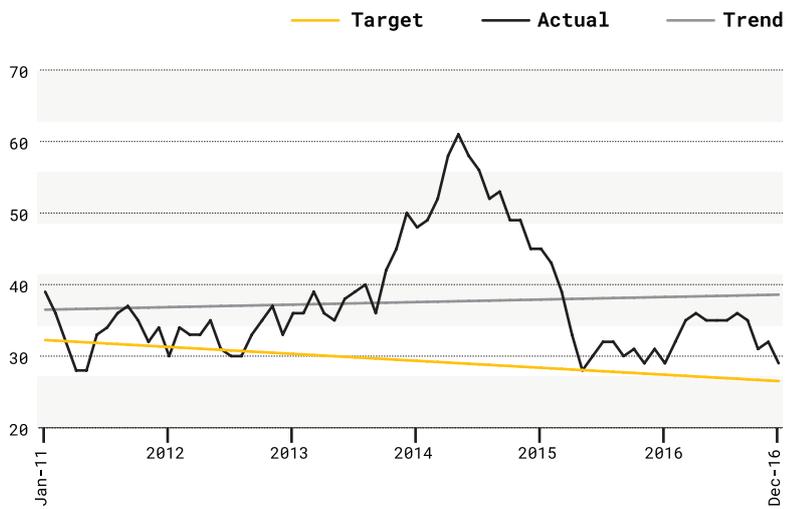
- There have been 248 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 203 over the same period in 2015.
- This is a 22.2 per cent increase.

## Section Three

# Analysis: Road User Groups

Cyclists fatalities per annum

Red

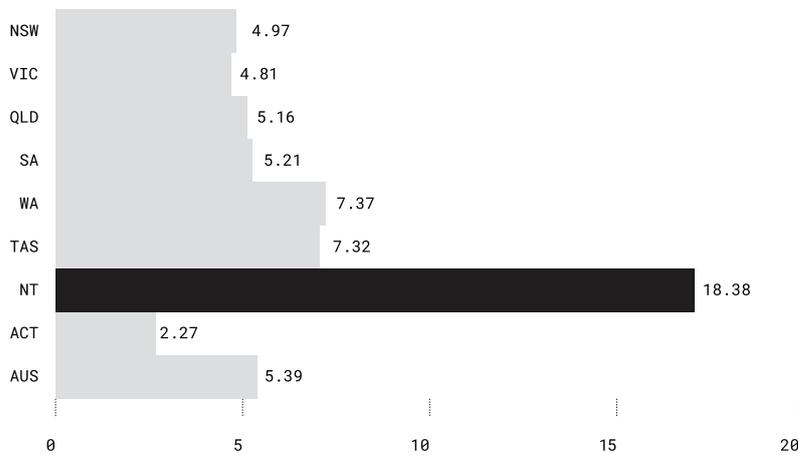


- 29 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, a decrease from 31 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This is a decrease of 6.5 per cent.

## Section Four

# Analysis: Road Deaths by Population

### Annual Road Deaths per 100,000 population



The National Road Safety Strategy does not include a target for the fatality rate based on population, but it is still a useful indicator to determine priority areas. The data show that the most populous states of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have fewer road deaths in proportion to their population than the other jurisdictions (with the exception of the ACT), while more attention is needed to reduce deaths in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

# Analysis: Potential Lives Saved

	Current number of fatalities	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of fatalities at 4.81 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved
NSW	384	4.97	372	12
VIC	292	4.81	292	0
QLD	250	5.16	233	17
SA	89	5.21	82	7
WA	193	7.37	126	67
TAS	38	7.32	25	13
NT	45	18.38	12	33
ACT*	9	2.27	9	0
AUS	1300	5.39	1151	149

If the other jurisdictions were able to achieve the Victorian fatality rate of 4.81 per 100,000 population, 149 lives could be saved nationally, with 67 in Western Australia, 17 in Queensland, 13 in Tasmania and 33 in the Northern Territory.

\* jurisdictions with a rate currently lower than 4.81 would not be anticipated to increase the number of fatalities.

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