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There has been an increase in the number of road fatalities from the September 2017 quarter to the December 2017 quarter. The 12 months to December recorded a decrease in fatalities compared with the same period in 2016. The decrease in the number of fatalities is welcomed however the data indicates that the NRSS target for the reduction in fatalities is unlikely to be achieved. The ability to achieve the targeted reductions in serious injuries is also uncertain.

### 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.

### Key Changes Since September 2017 Report

#### Current National Status

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>NT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
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#### Previous National Status

<table>
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#### User Groups

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Motorcyclists</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclists</td>
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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 12 January 2018 and Road Deaths Australia December 2017 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168.
States Plunge Into The Red Over Road Toll

The Australian Automobile Association’s (AAA) Benchmarking of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) has tracked 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.

For the first time in the history of this benchmarking, all states of Australia have been given a red light warning for being above the notional NRSS targets.

Only the nation’s territories, the NT and ACT, recorded amber light codes for being ahead of the notional target, but still need a greater improvement rate to achieve the 2020 goal.

In December 2017 the nation recorded its worst month of road fatalities in six years. Road deaths during the month numbered 129, the highest since November 2011 when 134 people died.

There were 339 road deaths recorded in the December quarter, compared to 324 in the September quarter, representing an increase of 4.6 per cent.

There was a rise in passenger deaths over the 2017 calendar year, however it is the only road user category to achieve a green light under the NRSS targets. All other categories of road users, such as drivers and cyclists were over the target. There was a 31 per cent increase in fatalities of cyclists during the year.

The overall road toll for the 2017 calendar year was 1,225 people. The figure represents a 5.3 per cent decrease in fatalities compared to the previous year. However, the figures exceeded the notional 2017 target by 99 lost lives.

When assessed by state, the deaths per 100,000 population was highest in the Northern Territory and lowest in Victoria (excluding the ACT).

The results of this benchmark report indicate it is increasingly unlikely that Australia will achieve the NRSS target. A significant increase in Commonwealth funding and leadership is required to improve this outlook.

The AAA has urged the Government to adopt the recommendations made in its National Road Safety Platform to get the strategy back on track.
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 9.5 per cent decline in the 12-month road toll, which is lower than the rate required to achieve the 2020 target.

In the 12 months ended December 2017, there were 1,225 fatalities on Australian roads, a decrease from 1,293 in the previous calendar year. There were 339 fatalities in the quarter ending December 2017, a 4.6 per cent increase on the 324 recorded in the quarter ending September 2017.

There has been a 5.3 per cent decrease in the road toll in the 12 months ending December 2017, compared with a year earlier.
Analysis: States and Territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

- Target
- Actual
- Trend

Yearly data from 2012 to 2017, with a target line and actual line showing fluctuations. The trend line indicates a downward trend.

Victoria fatalities per annum

- Target
- Actual
- Trend

Yearly data from 2012 to 2017, with a target line and actual line showing fluctuations. The trend line indicates a downward trend.

Red

- 392 road deaths occurred in the 12 months ending December 2017, compared to 380 deaths in the same period in 2016.
- An increase of 3.2 per cent.

- In the past 12 months, Victoria recorded 253 deaths, compared to 290 deaths in the same period in 2016.
- This is a 12.8 per cent decrease compared to a year earlier.
In the past 12 months, Queensland has recorded 248 deaths, compared to 251 deaths in the same period in 2016. A 1.2 per cent decrease compared to a year earlier.

In the past 12 months, 101 deaths occurred on South Australian roads, compared to 86 deaths in the same period in 2016. An increase of 17.4 per cent compared to a year earlier.
Analysis: States and Territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

- In the past 12 months, 159 people were killed on Western Australian roads, compared to 193 in the same period in 2016.
- This is a decrease of 17.6 per cent compared to a year earlier.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

- In the past 12 months, 36 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 37 deaths in the same period in 2016.
- This is a 2.7 per cent decrease on a year earlier.
In the past 12 months, 31 deaths occurred on Northern Territory roads, compared to 45 deaths in the same period in 2016. This is a decrease of 31.1 per cent compared to a year earlier.

The ACT recorded 5 deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 11 deaths in the same period in 2016. This is a 54.5 per cent decrease on a year earlier.
Analysis: Road User Groups

Drivers fatalities per annum

Passengers fatalities per annum

Red

- There have been 575 driver deaths on Australian roads in the past 12 months, a decrease from 623 that occurred in the corresponding period in 2016.
- A decrease of 7.7 per cent over the past year.

Green

- In the past 12 months, 235 deaths on Australian roads have been passengers, compared with 208 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This is an increase of 13.0 per cent.
Section Three

Pedestrians fatalities per annum

- There have been 159 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads over the 12 months, a decrease from 182 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This represents a decrease of 12.6 per cent.

Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

- There have been 211 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, compared to 249 in the same period in 2016.
- This is a 15.3 per cent decrease.
### Analysis: Road User Groups

**Cyclists fatalities per annum**

- 38 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 29 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This is an increase of 31.0 per cent.

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Red

- 38 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 29 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This is an increase of 31.0 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 and Victoria 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, Western Australia and South Australia.

If the other jurisdictions were able to achieve the Victorian fatality rate of 4.00 per 100,000 population, 253 lives could be saved nationally, with 78 in New South Wales, 56 in Western Australia, 51 in Queensland and 32 in South Australia.

* Jurisdictions with a rate currently lower than 4.00 would not be anticipated to increase the number of fatalities.