

**ROAD SAFETY — FESTIVE SEASON**

*Statement by Minister for Road Safety*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety)** [9.11 am]: With Christmas approaching and Parliament House media drinks being held this evening, I rise to remind members of the house to keep safe on the roads this season. The worst part of being the Minister for Road Safety is that the key performance indicator is the total number of lives lost on our roads. Having lost a loved one in a road crash, I know that every time the number of deaths on our roads increases, it is not just a statistic—each number represents a family, a group of friends and a whole community of people whose lives will forever be changed by a car crash, which is often caused by a bad decision or a moment of inattention. One of these families is the Dunbar family, whose baby was killed by a drunk driver earlier this year. Their lives and their family have been torn apart by the actions of a drink-driver. Drink-driving is never acceptable, which is why I will make a pledge for Nate: I pledge that I will not drink and drive, and I will not accept my friends, family and colleagues getting behind the wheel drunk either. There is no reason that we cannot enjoy a drink, as long as we make certain of transport options to get us home safely. We need to do that not only for our lives, but also for the lives of innocent road users—or in the case of Nate, those sleeping in their crib.

To date, 150 people have lost their lives on Western Australian roads this year. Whilst that is 17 fewer fatalities than the number at the same time last year, it is still totally unacceptable. As a government, we acknowledge that much more needs to be done to return Western Australia to best practice across Australia. Later today I will be launching a party preparation pack that has been put together by the Office of Road Safety. With an assortment of tips on how people can reduce their risk as hosts, such as serving food and water in addition to alcohol, keeping taxi numbers close to phones and suggesting the appointment of driving skippers, the guide also features a link that allows hosts to register their party with Western Australia Police. The resources reinforce the fact that all hosts have a duty of care for the safety and wellbeing of their guests.

Over the next few weeks in the lead-up to Christmas, it is known statistically that another 20 people may die on our roads. We do not have to accept this as reality, and I urge members to share this road safety message over the Christmas period. Stop accepting that road deaths, as long as it happens to someone else, are inevitable. Road safety is a shared responsibility and the most enduring and significant reductions in the road toll will be achieved only by the community no longer accepting road trauma as a given and by people making changes to their driving accordingly. I encourage members of Parliament and members of the community to join with the more than 5 500 people who have already taken a stand against drink-driving and who have made a pledge for Nate. Please drive safely. I hope to see everyone back here next year.