

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery

Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 15 April 2025

HAVE A ROADSIDE CUPPA TO STAY SAFE THIS EASTER

Drivers are being urged to stay safe on the roads this Easter - including taking regular rest breaks - to help prevent accidents and avoid potential tragedy.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward today joined volunteers from the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) Knox Unit to encourage fatigued drivers to take a break at a Driver Reviver site this long weekend.

This Easter more than 30 sites will be set up across the state in conjunction with TAC's Pause Stop sites – dedicated hubs where drivers can pull in to grab a free cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit to recharge.

Volunteers will spend their long weekend encouraging safe driving behaviour to ensure road users get to their destinations safely and enjoy quality time with loved ones when they arrive.

Powered by VICSES and Lions Club volunteers, the Driver Reviver program has been highlighting the importance of safe driving behaviour across Victoria for 35 years.

Participating VICSES units will include Benalla, Cann River, Euroa, Kerang, Marong, Maryborough, Mildura, Morwell, Numurkah, Orbost, Ouyen, Rochester, Rushworth, St Arnaud, Tambo Valley and Warragul.

Tragically, there have already been 84 lives lost on Victorian roads in 2025.

Fatigue remains a major issue on Victoria's roads – drivers should allow plenty of travel time, plan a break from the road every two hours, get enough rest and swap drivers where possible.

On average, VICSES volunteers respond to 1,300 road crash rescues each year and last calendar year they were called to more than 2,100 road rescues across the state.

VICSES provides the largest road rescue network in Australia, with 104 accredited Road Crash Rescue provider units across Victoria.

Quote attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward

"Our dedicated emergency services volunteers are giving up their long weekend to encourage drivers to travel safely on our roads this Easter – I urge everyone to make their job easier by taking care when driving."

Quote attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne

"We know that long weekends can be cause for tragedy on our roads – that's why we need everyone to take a break when driving and simply don't drive in the first place if you're too tired."

Quote attributable to VICSES Acting Chief Officer Operations Alistair Drayton

"For over 50 years, our VICSES volunteers have played a vital role in supporting their communities in times of need and are the largest principal provider of road crash rescue in Australia."

Quote attributable to TAC Head of Road Safety Sam Cockfield

"Easter is a time to unwind and relax with family and we are asking all Victorians who are travelling on the roads across this busy period to be well rested before they drive, slow down and take care."

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