The South Australia Police deliver Road Safety Education across the state in partnership with the Motor Accident Commission. These sessions have as an underlying theme throughout the whole program of the fatal five crash causation factors (drink and drug driving, exceeding the speed limit, seatbelts, distraction and stopping dangerous drivers) and the impact that these factors have on road safety. Road safety education should discuss the choices that you make when driving; the risks that those choices expose you to; and the consequences which may occur upon making your choices.

During the fiscal year 2012-13 the Road Safety Section (RSS) delivered the following Road Safety Education:

- 715 sessions in schools with the Introduction to Road Safety having 167 sessions at the Road Safety Centre; 216 crossing monitor training sessions at primary schools; 332 sessions at Secondary Schools (81 sessions for Year 10 – guide to Ls and Ps; 197 sessions for Year 11 – The Fatal 5 & reducing the risks of being involved in a crash; and 54 sessions of Year 12 – Getting home safely)
- 102 Business Driver Awareness programs
- 45 sessions for senior road users
- 40 sessions delivered to country football leagues in partnership with the SANFL
- 70 sessions completed for Neighbourhood Watch groups, service clubs and car clubs
- 60 Road Safety Displays and Voluntary Breath Testing Stations presented.

Highlighting the issue of Road Safety is important and it should form an important component in safety considerations when learning to drive, honing your skills as a novice driver, driving for pleasure, driving within the community and driving whilst at work.
TEN STEPS TO ROAD SAFETY

Sometimes the simplest approach to an idea is the best. Recently, we were given the ‘Ten steps to Road Safety’ which are worth considering when being a safe road user. The list can certainly be added to and is not exhaustive. Anyway, here they are:

1. Give your keys to the designated driver when sober, you won’t when drunk.
2. If you don’t trust your mates on drugs, why trust yourself.
3. Fast won’t get you there sooner — Lose your licence and you’re screwed.
4. Not wearing a seat belt is a smack in the face. Head trauma hurts.
5. Mates are a distraction. The more in the car the greater the risk.
6. Don’t use a mobile phone at all if L or P1 (not even in an approved car kit)
7. Storytelling is for kids—dangerous driving stories don’t get you kudos.
8. Driving is like colouring-in, stay between the lines and don’t cut corners.
9. The three second rule allows for safe reaction and braking time.
10. You don’t get good at something in 5 minutes — experience takes time.
IS THERE AN EXPIRY DATE ON TYRES?

Recently, a question was asked as to whether tyres have an expiry date and if it is unlawful to have older tyres on your vehicle. Information from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Vehicle Inspection Station at Regency Park states that tyres do not ‘expire’ due to their age. The condition of the tyres is the issue. Tyres which show signs of wear, have damage to the walls or show cracking are dangerous to drive on and can be defected. The fact that tyres are old by the mere fact of age does not make them illegal.

Some tyre manufacturers and distributors will question whether tyres should be used that are over 5 years old and are so more subject to failure. A distributor who sells older manufactured tyres is not committing an offence but if a person is not happy with the state of the purchased tyres they may lodge a consumer complaint.

This discussion raises the issue about what you should look for when inspecting your tyres. Inspecting your tyres is something that you should do regularly if the owner of a vehicle. It is even more important to inspect the tyres of vehicles that you drive that you don’t own. Think about the cars you drive a work – do you at least look at them before getting in and driving?

Here is a list of the things that you should look for when inspecting your tyres:-

- The primary function of tread on a tyre is to divert water from beneath the tyre to improve traction and avoid hydroplaning on wet roads. Tyres become unsafe when they're worn, and once the tread is down to 1.6mm, the tyre is no longer safe.

- All tyres sold in the Australia and other countries have what are called "tread wear bars". These are small bridges that form between your treads. Look at the tread pattern and you'll see the beginnings of these bars start to form between the treads, or running across the tyres. As the tyres wear, these bars will become flush (level or even) with the tyre's tread. These bars are located at the bottom of the tread grooves in several locations around the tyre; and when the tyre is worn to the point where any of them become visibly flushed with the adjacent tread ribs, it is time to replace the tyre.

- Purchasing and using a tread depth indicator or gauge is a good idea and they can be purchased at most auto parts dealers. These indicators will give you a measurement of the depth of your tyre tread (remember that the depth must be at least 1.6 mm).
IS THERE AN EXPIRY DATE ON TYRES?

Continued ...

- Worn tyres should be replaced as a matter of common sense to assure safety. Tyres fitted to cars will wear at different rates depending on the quality of the tyre, the manner in which it is driven and the conditions under which the vehicle is used (quality of the roads, temperatures under which the vehicle is used and other environmental issues). You should factor in the purchase of tyres for your vehicle as you consider the cost of petrol, servicing and other general maintenance costs.

- Make note of any irregular tread wear. This could indicate a wheel misalignment, the need for a tyre rotation, or both. Uneven tread wear is a sign that you need to take your car in for a wheel alignment and balancing – having these checks done should form part of your maintenance regime for your car.

- If you happen to see wires on your tread or notice wear on the sidewalls of the tyre, get the tyre replaced.

- Tyres should never rub against your fenders or any other part of your car. If your tyres rub during turns or when going over bumps, they don’t fit, no matter how cool they look. Fix this before you suffer a blowout and crash.

- Be careful to buy tyres that are the right size and type for your vehicle and rims (wheels). Changing to low-profile tyres may require you to buy larger rims so that the outer circumference of the tyre remains unchanged. Incorrect tyre size or mismatched tread can also cause a low tyre pressure warning to come on if the vehicle is equipped with a Tyre Pressure Monitoring.

- All car manufacturers will have guidelines for the ideal inflation of your car’s tyres. This is usually expressed in terms of pressure, and most cars still have this information supplied in both metric and imperial units, as do most air pumps at service stations. Your vehicle will have the correct tyre pressures displayed on a tyre placard.

- Tyre pressures should be checked once a fortnight, or at a maximum at least once a month, when the tyres are cold (not having been run).
Yes, it is almost upon us again. This year, the display will focus on the 175 year history of the world’s third oldest centrally organised police force (only London and Dublin are older than SAPOL). To spark discussion about the changing road toll across the years, the Road Safety Section will be inviting visitors to try their hand at an electronic ‘skill tester’ both normally and with the impairment of low level ‘beer goggles’. Facts like the impact of random breath testing in 1981 which caused a dip of fifty fatalities and the introduction of the 0.05 limit which caused a dip of more than forty fatalities are milestones along the journey of reducing the incidence and severity of road crashes in South Australia.

Please come and see us at the display. We will be available every day from 6 to 14 September, 2013 between opening time (9 am) to closing time (9 pm) at site G31 – G35 in the Jubilee Pavilion.