

Indigenous Road Safety Working Group

Terms of Reference

May 2005

Background

The *National Road Safety Strategy 2001-2010* includes the objective of continually reducing the road casualty rate for indigenous people and other groups for which there are special road safety concerns. The *National Road Safety Action Plan for 2001 and 2002* contained the following possible measures:

- develop and implement appropriate measures arising from the Aboriginal Road Safety Working Group;
- conduct an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander road safety forum;
- investigate the feasibility of formally recording road safety outcomes for indigenous people in all jurisdictions to enable development of more effective programs; and
- develop culturally appropriate road safety programs.

As a means of providing an appropriate level of national coordination, the National Road Safety Strategy Panel established an Indigenous Road Safety Working Group in 2001.

The *National Road Safety Action Plan for 2003 and 2004* called for jurisdictions to work with indigenous communities to identify and implement locally relevant and culturally sound initiatives that would improve road safety outcomes. In addition, the plan includes an action to develop an Internet-based clearing house to share information on effective indigenous road safety strategies among stakeholders and communities, an initiative managed by Western Australia. The *National Road Safety Action Plan for 2005 and 2006* calls for continuation of these measures.

Under the Strategy, national forums on indigenous road safety have been convened by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau in cooperation with local government transport departments in Adelaide in 2002 and Alice Springs in 2004 (Previous national forums were held in Alice Springs in 1997 and Darwin in 1999).

Purpose

The purpose of the Indigenous Road Safety Working Group is to provide expert strategic advice to the National Road Safety Strategy Panel about measures to reduce the involvement of indigenous people in road trauma. The Working Group will:

- monitor the nature and extent of the involvement of indigenous people in road trauma;
- promote the involvement of indigenous people and agencies at all levels of road safety management with regard to improving indigenous road safety;
- investigate initiatives for indigenous road safety;
- share best practice and information about road safety research and measures undertaken in jurisdictions;
- convene national forums on indigenous road safety; and
- report progress on recommended actions from the forums and provide advice to the National Road Safety Strategy Panel.

Membership

Membership of the Working Group will come from the Commonwealth (the ATSB) and the States and Territories. It will include, as appropriate, from each jurisdiction, senior personnel with responsibilities for Indigenous road safety plus indigenous representatives. It is anticipated that members will represent the consolidated views of their jurisdictions. In addition, membership of the Group also includes representatives or input from and State/Territory health, police, education authorities and other agencies as required.