



Tasmania Inc

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

### **Back to school for Tassie kids- Let's get them there safely! There are risks!**

As families begin to organise themselves for the start of the new school year, it's important to remember the importance of safety going to and from school. This is everyone's responsibility.

Kidsafe Chief Executive Officer Jenny Branch-Allen said the excitement of returning to school and families getting back into a routine brought challenges. We want to remind drivers about slowing down around schools and school crossings.

Kidsafe Tasmania fully supports the Governments LOVE 40 strategy and lowering of speed around schools is the most effective way to reduce the risk of accidents.

Some crossings have crossing guards and Kidsafe asks drivers and pedestrians to respect and obey instructions given by the guards. Children respond to the instructions of the crossing guard and trust the signals given when it is safe to cross.

It can be a good idea to do a dry run to school for those attending for the first time or attending a new school. It is important to be familiar with the safest places to park and the safest places for kids to cross the road.

#### **Tips:**

- Always stop for a school crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones and in all residential areas where children are walking to school.
- Don't beep your horn or rev up your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians in a school zone
- Children move quickly are not always aware of vehicles like adults

-ENDS-

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