

MEDIA RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOWNSVILLE STUDENTS GET ROADSET TO HELP SAVE LOCAL LIVES

A free online learning experience and education tool aimed at Year 9 students, RoadSet, is taking off in Townsville - making local roads safer for everyone.

Townsville has become a critical regional hub and driver of the innovative program with 12 schools and four organisations within the greater region registered to take part - equating to more than 240 local students.

Launched in July 2020, the pilot program created by the Australian Road Safety Foundation (ARSF) with support of the Federal Government, has been adopted by more than 700 pilot schools nationwide.

Today Federal Member for Herbert Mr Phillip Thomson MP and Senator Susan McDonald, celebrated program completion at Townsville State High School, and encouraged further adoption across the local community.

Founder and CEO ARSF Russell White said road trauma was the biggest killer of Australian kids aged between one and 14 years, so it was imperative that the practices of safety were instilled as early as possible.

“Too often when we think about road safety - we narrow in on just drivers specifically, but the reality is that as road users, every single person has a key role to play in preventing tragic loss of life or injury.” Mr White said.

“This first stage of RoadSet is to embed safety understanding amongst young people prior to getting behind the wheel, in turn addressing risks now in the short term as passengers, pedestrians and cyclists, while also fostering a future generation of safe drivers later on.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said road safety is of vital importance to each and every Australian.

“*RoadSet* transforms the way road safety education is delivered. The program takes students on an engaging, self-guided learning journey, helping them develop their road awareness skills across a range of conditions, environments and scenarios,” Mr McCormack said.

RoadSet combines original animation with gamified interactions to deliver immersive content across 10 modules and is supported by curriculum-aligned teaching resources.

Federal Member for Herbert Phillip Thompson said road safety was one of his top priorities.

“Everyone who leaves home in the morning should come back safely to their family at night – and that is especially true for our youngest drivers,” Mr Thompson said.

“It’s absolutely critical that we give young people as much information and education as possible, as early as possible, and it’s great to see the RoadSet program achieving that here at Townsville High.”

Townsville State High School Principal Mr Rob Slater said the RoadSet program had been a hugely valuable addition to its road safety initiatives.

“We know that students need to be engaged in content, it needs to be interactive and easy to digest in order to make an impact, and we’ve found RoadSet to deliver on just that.” Mr Slater said.

“It’s been encouraging to see that all our RoadSet participants are engaging in meaningful conversations and most importantly, we’ve noticed a change in the behaviour of our participating students when they are around the road,” he said.

Students and other individual users can download the free *RoadSet* program by visiting www.roadset.com.au on any device. Teachers and community educators can access supporting learning materials by visiting the teacher resources page on the *RoadSet* website.

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To confirm your attendance or for more information, please contact Thrive PR:

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