

Friday 11 March 2011

New impact lab for car and pedestrian safety

A new University of Adelaide laboratory to help pedestrian and road vehicle safety will be opened today by Road Safety Minister Tom Kenyon.

The Centre for Automotive Safety Research's new Vehicle Safety Laboratory has been purpose-built in Kent Town and is the only facility of its kind in Australia.

The Laboratory will focus on pedestrian crash impact testing and will be the official testing facility for the pedestrian component of the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP).

CASR Director Professor Mary Lydon said: "Pedestrians make up a significant proportion of all road casualties, accounting within Australia for 16.5% of all road fatalities and 8.5% of all serious injuries.

"This testing will assist the design of more pedestrian friendly vehicles. It puts the spotlight on protection offered to pedestrians by different vehicle structures and means we can measure improvements and differences in safety."

Mr Kenyon said: "The State Government has provided sustained investment in CASR over a number of years through a \$10 million deed agreement.

"The new facilities will allow CASR to expand the range of testing carried out and to supervise postgraduate students in the vehicle testing area."

ANCAP Chair Lauchlan McIntosh said the opening of the new CASR facility in Adelaide would improve ANCAP's internationally recognised crash testing regime in the interests of all Australian road users, including pedestrians and other vulnerable users.

"Pedestrian testing is a major part of ANCAP's crash testing process, and these new CASR facilities will provide a better amenity for the pedestrian tests which form a part of the overall ANCAP safety rating," Mr McIntosh said. "ANCAP has worked closely with CASR for some years now in testing and providing vehicle safety ratings, and these new premises will only strengthen our relationship."

Mr Tom Phillips, Chair of the CASR Reference Board said: "CASR appreciates the support provided by ANCAP in setting up the new laboratory and is looking forward to continuing to support ANCAP in its excellent work."

The laboratory testing meets global and European regulations, directives and protocols and includes bull bar testing and development, impact testing of energy absorbing materials, vehicle interior impact testing, crash reconstruction, high-speed film capture and high resolution data acquisition.

The University of Adelaide's Centre for Automotive Safety Research is a world-renowned specialised centre for road safety research, carrying out multi-disciplinary research into all aspects of road safety with the aim of reducing the human and social costs of road trauma.

Media Contact:

Professor Mary Lydon

Director, Centre for Automotive Safety Research

The University of Adelaide

Phone: +61 8 8303 7362

Mobile: +61 427 792 594

mary@casr.adelaide.edu.au

Robyn Mills

Media Officer

The University of Adelaide

Phone: +61 8 8303 6341

Mobile: +61 410 689 084

robyn.mills@adelaide.edu.au