



**Greg Aplin MP**  
Member for Albury

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP TO SAVE YOUNG LIVES ON ALBURY ROADS**

With Orientation Week now underway, the NSW Government and Charles Sturt University (CSU) have today announced a partnership to promote the importance of road safety to regional and rural university students following a sharp increase in the country road toll last year.

Students at CSU in Albury-Wodonga will be targeted as part of the program with key road safety messages about speeding, fatigue, drink driving, mobile phone distraction and animal strikes highlighted through road safety forums and O-Week activities.

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said educating young drivers would help to raise awareness of the fact that someone is killed or seriously injured on country roads every 41 minutes.

“We need to ensure that young drivers understand the consequences of risky behaviour on country roads and the responsibilities associated with being a novice driver,” Mr Aplin said.

“Too often, novice drivers are being distracted by their mobile phones, increasing your likelihood of a crash, and for every kilometre you go over the speed limit you’re not only endangering your own life, but those of all other road users.

“We know country drivers spend more time driving on our roads, often longer distances, therefore it’s important you get a good night’s sleep and share the driving with mates if you’re feeling tired.

Young drivers are over-represented in the country road toll. P-Platers make up 8 per cent of all driver licence holders in the country, yet their crashes account for 15 per cent of the country road fatalities

“Tragically, that equates to 78 people aged 17-25 years being killed on NSW roads last year, with 47 of those fatalities occurring on a country road.”

In welcoming the road safety partnership, Head of Campus at CSU in Albury-Wodonga, Dr Jennifer Munday, said Charles Sturt University takes the health and welfare of its students very seriously, and this extends to their travel on NSW roads.

“The University shares the NSW Government’s concerns about the states road toll and is pleased to endorse and support the Towards Zero campaign and the road safety forums and activities for students as part of O Week.”

The initiative will be rolled out to CSU campuses in Albury-Wodonga, Dubbo, Bathurst, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga in February, and supports the priority action to save lives on country roads announced this month as part of the NSW Government’s Road Safety Plan 2021.

For more information about the Government's commitment to reducing road deaths and serious injuries visit [www.towardszero.nsw.gov.au](http://www.towardszero.nsw.gov.au)

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