

The Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q) is based at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane and forms a major part of the Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Domain of the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI).

Established in 1996 as a joint venture initiative of the Queensland Government's Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC) and Queensland University of Technology, the Centre's brief is to undertake research and deliver education programs to improve road safety and reduce deaths and injuries.

Since its establishment, CARRS-Q has grown to become one of the leading institutions of its type in the world and the premier institution for the education of road safety professionals in Australia.

Its visionary approach, quality standards and innovative initiatives make it an award-winning Centre which conducts high quality, independent research and education, extends tertiary learning opportunities, and develops and delivers unique community-based behaviour change initiatives.

## **STAFF - STUDENT PROFILE**

CARRS-Q currently has over 70 staff and students as detailed below:

### **Academic and Research Staff**

Academic researchers	10
Post Doctoral Research Fellows	9
Research Officers	3
Other research staff	3

### **Postgraduate profile**

Masters students	11
PhD students	22

### **Professional staff profile**

Administration Officers	10
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## **RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

The Centre conducts research under 5 themes. These are identified below, with a sample of new externally-funded projects being undertaken within each:

### **Regulation and Enforcement**

- Developing innovative advertising strategies to enhance the impact of anti-drink driving messages: testing the role and effectiveness of positive modelling and emotions
- Development and testing of a comprehensive model of driver aggression
- The development of a computer based brief intervention program for first time drink driving offenders

### **School and Community Injury Prevention**

- Increasing School connectedness: boosting the effects of a curriculum-based injury prevention program for adolescents
- An investigation into the efficacy of medication warnings about driving

### **Vulnerable Road Users**

- Understanding and preventing injuries to motorcycle and moped riders
- Compendium of Best Practices on Motorcycle and Scooter Safety (APEC)
- Using biological motion to enhance the night time safety of road workers, cyclists and pedestrians
- Development of an evidence-based framework to guide intervention development for off-road motorcyclists

### **Occupational Road Safety**

- Road Safety Culture and the Heavy Vehicle Industry
- Development of a research based intervention into fleet safety
- Development of an intervention for work-related drivers targeting low speed vehicle run-overs of young children

### **Safety Systems and Technology**

- A socio-economic study of platform and carriage crowding in the railway industry
- Indonesian Road Safety Workshop
- Professional development program for 13 visiting Fellows from China and Pakistan

*"The goal of CARRS-Q is to reduce road trauma at the local, national and international level, by conducting innovative research and delivering high quality education programs to practitioners."*

Professor Barry Watson, Director, CARRS-Q

## ROAD SAFETY STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Centre takes an active role in road safety education which includes:

### Graduate Certificate/Diploma in Road Safety programs

These programs are offered internally (campus-based) and externally (flexible delivery/distance education) to domestic and international students.

### Short courses

The Centre offers week-long block courses as part of the Graduate Certificate/Diploma program (Road Safety Audit and Road Safety Evaluation). These programs are also available as short courses tailored for industry.

### Postgraduate research studies

The Centre has a very active postgraduate education profile, with 22 PhD and 11 Masters by Research students currently enrolled. Since 2002, 18 students have successfully completed their PhD programs.

### Support for road safety practitioners

Support is provided for road safety practitioners in various forums such as the Fleet Safety Seminar Series which is delivered locally and intra-state. The Centre also takes a very active role in the Australasian College of Road Safety (ARCS) providing Secretariat support for the Queensland Chapter of the ACRS, which is currently chaired by Dr Kerry Armstrong following Professor Barry Watson's 5-year tenure of this position. Several CARRS-Q staff members hold other roles, and Professor Barry Watson is an elected member of the National Executive and National Vice-President of the College. Quarterly seminars are held which are usually convened at CARRS-Q.

## ADVOCACY

The Centre focuses on outreach to, and engagement with, the community by presenting a variety of seminars, forums, workshops and special events. These include:

### The Queensland Road Safety Awards

This is an annual event, jointly conducted by CARRS-Q and the RACQ, which recognises and honours the outstanding efforts of individuals and groups who have initiated projects or programs to improve safety on Queensland's roads. There are 6 categories for which community groups can submit, with the winners receiving their trophies at a presentation at Parliament House.

### Media

CARRS-Q staff speak regularly on radio and television, and are also frequently in the print media in relation to topics of particular interest regarding road safety.

### CARRS-Q Breakfast Seminars

The Centre has an extensive network of international authorities in road safety, who regularly visit the Centre. This generally provides the opportunity to showcase their research and their interaction with CARRS-Q at Breakfast Seminars which are held in the city enabling relevant Government and industry representatives to attend.

### Stakeholders Reference Groups and the Stakeholders Showcase

The Centre engages with various Government, industry and community groups involved in road safety, and holds seminars to showcase our research to external funders to encourage dialogue to ensure that relevant research opportunities are being investigated.

### Website information and development

As part of the Centre's brief to engage with the larger community, the CARRS-Q website is constantly being updated and enhanced. Several new pages have been added during 2009, including a Media page, a Fact Sheets page, Alumni pages in preparation for the launch of the Alumni Program, and a signup form to receive an electronic version of Safety Visions, the CARRS-Q newsletter.

### Research publications and ePrints

Lists of CARRS-Q research publications are available electronically from QUT ePrints. This digital repository allows free viewing and downloading of most of our publications including journal articles, books and conference presentations. Please visit ePrints at [www.eprints.qut.edu.au](http://www.eprints.qut.edu.au)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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