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## Parents' Winter warning: 1200 babies locked in cars

The State's peak motoring body has urged parents not to become complacent during the cooler months, as new data revealed RACQ had recused more than 1200 children from locked cars in the past year.

RACQ spokesperson Renee Smith said it was an alarming statistic and an important reminder to parents and carers who assumed children were only at risk during hot weather.

"Shockingly, on average, our patrols are called to rescue more than three children from locked cars in Queensland every day," Ms Smith said.

"Most of these are accidental lock-ins and happen when Mum or Dad give the child a set of keys to play with, and they then press the lock button – it's a frightening thought for any parent.

"Even though it's winter, there's still no safe time to leave a child unattended in a car. Especially here in Queensland where our testing shows temperatures inside the car can rise by 10 degrees in just eight minutes – even if your car's parked in the shade or a window's left open."

Ms Smith said children were at risk of death or serious injury if they were left in cars.

"We always treat these call outs as the highest priority," she said.

Ms Smith said parents or carers who found their children in these situation should remain calm and call for help.

"If you see a child locked in a car and are concerned for their health, call RACQ or emergency services. Don't ever try to break a window though, as this can injure the child inside."

**Media inquiries: RACQ spoke person Renee Smith 0409 573 193; Media Advisor Clare Hunter 0427 261 932.**

*RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.6 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, finance, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.*