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Wrong turn in road deaths

Queensland drivers are dying in road crashes at a rate that's seen little decline, prompting the State's peak motoring body to call for greater Federal Government funding for low cost but effective safety upgrades on deadly roads.

RACQ Head of Technical and Safety Steve Spalding said the Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) *National Road Safety Benchmarking [report](#)* revealed Queensland was on track to miss road fatality reduction targets signed up to by all governments in 2011.

"1222 people died on our roads in the past year. It's only one death fewer than in the previous 12 months, but it doesn't change the fact more than 1200 families are grieving a lost loved one," Mr Spalding said.

"In Queensland we've seen a tiny 1.6 percent decrease in road deaths in the past 12 months, which is a tragic loss of human life, and worryingly, there's also an upward trend since the start of 2018."

Mr Spalding said the AAA report revealed the country was not on track to reduce road deaths by 30 percent by 2020 as pledged.

"While the personal and human cost of road deaths is impossible to measure, the economic impact crashes have on our country is more than 22 billion dollars a year," he said.

Mr Spalding joined other motoring clubs in calling on both sides of politics to commit to the actions outlined in AAA's Road Safety Platform to make the nation's roads safer.

"While the Black Spot program is a good start, but we need better investment in low-cost safety upgrades on our worst roads, which RACQ has identified in [AusRAP](#)."

**Media inquiries: Head of Technical and Safety Policy Steve Spalding 0419 794 008;
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 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.