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Tired drivers risking their lives on Qld roads: RACQ

As families prepared to set off on school holiday road trips, RACQ has released shocking new statistics which revealed more than one third of Queensland motorists had admitted to driving while fatigued.

RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross said of those surveyed, 36 percent had confessed they had driven while tired, or had experienced difficulty staying awake behind the wheel.

“Fatigue is one of the biggest killers on Queensland roads, so it’s really worrying we’re seeing so many drivers still risking their lives, and the lives of others, by driving tired,” Ms Ross said.

“What’s bizarre, and frankly frightening, is that while our stats show many motorists flirt with fatigue when driving, a whopping 96 percent of the people we surveyed believed drowsy drivers were a danger.”

Ms Ross said RACQ was concerned many drivers mistakenly believed they could fight fatigue with quick fixes.

“Driving tired can increase your crash risk to levels similar to drink driving – it’s that serious,” she said.

“Plying yourself with coffee or putting down the windows isn’t the answer – the only real solution for fatigue is sleep.”

Ms Ross urged motorists to ensure they were fit to drive before they got behind the wheel.

“We’re calling on all Queenslanders, particularly in the lead up to school holiday road trips, to take charge of their own safety and to make sure they’re up to the task of driving,” she said.

“Have a good night’s sleep before you hit the road, and if you’re feeling drowsy, pull over and take a break. If you’re on a long journey, stop every two hours, and don’t drive more than eight to 10 hours in a 24 hour period. It could save a life.”

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross 0447 196 258.

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.