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Teens risking lives getting in cars with drink drivers

Shocking new RACQ statistics have revealed more than 40 percent of Queensland teens had admitted to having been a passenger in a car with a drink driver.

The data was compiled as part of the Club's award-winning Docudrama road safety education program.

RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross said the statistics were worrying, and the issue was more prevalent in regional areas.

"Half of teens living in regional areas told us they've been in a car when the driver was over the legal alcohol limit," Ms Ross said.

"We know public transport or rideshare options mightn't be as prevalent in country areas as they are in the city, but getting into the car with a drunk driver is never your only option to get home.

"In metro areas the situation sadly isn't much better, with 35 percent of teens admitting to riding with a drunk driver."

Ms Ross said it was vital young adults knew how to get themselves out of trouble.

"We hope parents see these statistics as a wake-up call that prompts them to speak with their kids about how to get home safely from parties," she said.

"Talk to your children about trusting their gut when it's telling them something's wrong. It's so important they say or do something to remove themselves from a dangerous situation - even if it's pretending to be sick so the driver stops the car - because it's simply not worth dying to avoid embarrassment.

"Parents also have a responsibility - if your child is at a party and you may have to pick them up, make sure you plan ahead and ensure you're not over the legal alcohol limit yourself."

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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.