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The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

PROGRESS IN ITS PROGRAM
OF INQUIRIES

House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Road Safety

Report

September 1980

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE
IN THE THIRTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT**

<i>Chairman:</i>	The Hon. R. C. Katter, M.P.
<i>Deputy Chairman:</i>	The Hon. C. K. Jones, M.P.
<i>Members:</i>	Mr J. M. Bradfield, M.P. Mr B. J. Goodluck, M.P. Mr B. C. Humphreys, M.P. Mr P. F. Johnson, M.P. Mr P. F. Morris, M.P. Mr J. R. Porter, M.P.
<i>Clerk to the Committee:</i>	Mr W. Mutton ¹

Note:

¹ Mr Mutton replaced Mr F. R. Hinkley as Clerk to the Committee on 7 January 1980.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

1. On 2 March 1978 the Committee was appointed by resolution of the House to inquire into and report on:

- (a) the main causes of the present high level of the road toll in Australia;
- (b) the most effective means of achieving greater road safety in Australia;
- (c) the particular aspects of the problem to which those concerned with road safety could most advantageously direct their efforts; and
- (d) the economic cost to the community of road accidents in Australia in terms of:
 - (i) material damage;
 - (ii) loss of man-hours and earning capacity; and
 - (iii) cost of treatment of accident victims.

These terms of reference are identical to those of the Standing Committees on Road Safety established in the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Parliaments and with the terms of reference of the Select Committees on Road Safety of the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Parliaments.

2. The Committee's program of inquiries has been based on a division of the field of road safety into several areas for investigation and report. These are:

- the institutional framework;
- the road environment;
- the vehicle;
- the human behavioural aspect; and
- the cost of road accidents.

3. The Committee's predecessors in earlier Parliaments produced the following reports:

- *Road Safety—A National Authority, the Constitutional Position, Statistical Needs* (September 1973);
- *Roads and their Environment* (April 1974);
- *Passenger Motor Vehicle Safety* (May 1976);
- *Heavy Vehicle Safety* (April 1977).

4. Since its appointment in the present Parliament the Committee has presented to the House the following three reports:

- *Motorcycle and Bicycle Safety* (May 1978);
- *Alcohol, Drugs and Road Safety* (May 1980);
- *Tyre Safety* (June 1980).

5. Three of the five areas in the program of investigation (the institutional framework, the road environment and the vehicle) have been dealt with comprehensively in these reports. A report has also been presented on the most serious of the human behavioural aspects of road safety—drink driving. Other road safety problems have been dealt with, though some have not formed the sole subject of a report (e.g. the training and licensing of motorcycle riders) or, alternatively, various aspects of a problem have been dealt with in more than one report. The important subject of pedestrian safety is an example of the latter. Several reports have also dealt with road safety publicity and education needs and with aspects of legislation and law enforcement.

6. There is a need for a review, or a series of reviews, of reports presented by this Committee and its predecessors since 1973. In particular, the House should be informed, through a reconstituted Standing Committee on Road Safety, of progress made by successive governments in implementing Committee recommendations. Where possible, an assessment should be made of the impact of implementing those recommendations. Subject to the results of these assessments, the Committee may consider further investigation into the human behavioural aspects of road safety.

7. In view of the work yet to be completed by the Committee, and the national importance of road safety, it is recommended that the Committee be reconstituted in the Thirty-second Parliament. It is further recommended that the new Committee be empowered to consider and make use of the records of the present and earlier Select and Standing Committees on Road Safety.

September 1980

R. C. KATTER
Chairman