



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Launch of Life-Saving iRAP Centre of Excellence at ARRB

The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) and ARRB Group (ARRB) have launched the first iRAP Centre of Excellence at the 24th ARRB conference last week in Melbourne, Australia.

Mr Rob McNerney, iRAP's Chief Executive Office and ARRB's Managing Director, Mr Gerard Waldron were present to launch the Centre of Excellence.

The creation of the Centre of Excellence is part of iRAP's vision for a world free of high risk roads and follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two leading not-for-profit road safety organisations in July 2010.

Mr McNerney said "The Centre of Excellence will work to prevent the more than 3,500 deaths that occur every day on the world's roads during the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

"A major focus of the Centre will be on road infrastructure safety in low- and middle-income countries, where 9 out of 10 road deaths occur.

"We are very pleased to be creating this partnership with ARRB - a world leader in road research - for the benefit of global road safety.

Mr Waldron said "The Centre will lead research on issues such as pedestrian safety in urban areas, and will build a network of road safety professionals through training and accreditation, which will be critical in achieving the goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety."

The Centre of Excellence will support development and delivery of road assessment programmes throughout the Asia Pacific region and establish programmes, including in Australia (AusRAP), New Zealand (KiwiRAP), Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam.

About iRAP

The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to saving lives through safer roads. Road Assessment Programmes (RAP) are now active in more than 50 countries throughout Europe, Asia Pacific, North, Central and South America and Africa. iRAP is financially supported by the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society. Projects receive support from the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility, the Inter American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, automobile associations and donors.

About ARRB Group

ARRB Group is Australia and New Zealand's only national road transport research organisation, whose members are Australian state and territory road authorities, the Australian Local Government Association, the Australian Government and the New Zealand Transport Authority. ARRB is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Media enquiries

iRAP:

Rob McNerney
CEO
+61 405 49 3030
www.irap.org

ARRB Group Limited:

Briarlea Green
Marketing Coordinator
+61 3 9881 1555
www.arrb.com.au