



# *Historical perspective in occupational safety in transport*

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Centre for Accident Research & Road Safety - Queensland

CARRS-Q is a joint venture initiative of the  
Motor Accident Insurance Commission  
and Queensland University of Technology



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# Terminology

- Occupational safety in transport
- Company car drivers
- Fleet safety
- Work-related road safety (WRRS)
- Corporate road safety

# Classifying work-related driving

	Privately owned, financed	Privately owned, company financed	Salary sacrifice	Package car	Company owned, allocated to one driver	Company owned, pool
Work is driving					✓	✓
Driving is intrinsic			?	✓	✓	✓
Driving between worksites		✓	?	✓	✓	✓
Driving to work	✓		✓	✓	✓	

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# Important events

- NSW RTA Safe Driving Policy - 1994
- Staysafe 36 seminar – April 1996
- Symposium on Work-Related Road Trauma and Fleet Risk Management in Australia – August 2001
- PRAISE Handbook – May 2012
- ISO International Standard 39001 Road Traffic Safety Management System – due Dec 2012

# Types of research and publications

Focus of research	Main question addressed
Epidemiological	Is there a crash/injury problem?
Cost/true cost of crashes	How big is the problem?
Specific driver risk factors	What sort of problem do we have?
Organisational/ management	Why haven't we fixed the problem?
Legislative analyses	Can we scare bosses into adopting better policies?
Vehicle safety and technology	How much can fleets benefit from improved vehicle safety?
Driver selection/training	Can we fix the nut behind the wheel?
Guidelines/policies/manuals	How to measure and fix your problems

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# Findings of systematic review

- Helman, S. and Grayson, G. B. (2011). Work related road safety: a systematic review of the literature on the effectiveness of interventions.
- Only 2/63 studies “provided a credible level of scientific control”
  - Televerket study (Gregersen, Brehmer and Moren, 1996)
  - In-car data recorders (Wouters and Bos, 2000)
- Success gets reported

# Changes in research focus

- From driver-centred to organisational research (Helman & Grayson, 2011)
- WRRS has become big business (Helman & Grayson, 2011)
- Fleet safety as a strategic approach to improving general road safety
  - Vehicle safety
  - Safety standards for services



# Emerging issues

- 40% increase in use of vans in UK, due to home shopping and subcontracting deliveries (Helman & Grayson, 2011)
- DIDO in mining industry

# International comparisons

- Britain and Australia have larger percentages of vehicles owned or financed by organisations than other countries
- Israel poor fleet vehicles
- International organisations may be significant players in road safety in developing countries
- Clashes between company and national road safety cultures

# Some neglected areas of OSIT

- Small “fleets”
- Workers as pedestrians
- Reducing travel
- Couriers
- NESB employees
- Specifying safety standards for purchased transport

# Barriers to improved light and heavy vehicle safety

- Driving still seen by many as a personal activity
  - Not really work
  - Sensitive
  - Outside of organisation's control
- Testosterone and territoriality
- Focus on time

# Conclusions

- There is a lot of advice being provided based on little evidence of effectiveness
- True costs of crashes and injuries often ignored
- OSIT may be the last area to stop blaming the driver
- COR has promised a lot but so far failed to deliver

# Questions?

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