

Media release 1/8/16

## Safety Truck arrives WA for eight week tour

Supported by the WA State Government Community Road Safety Grants Program and the RAC, Transafe WA will host the first ever tour of the Australian Trucking Association (ATA's) Safety Truck through WA during August and September in an effort to create a greater awareness amongst all West Australians of how to share the road safely with heavy vehicles.

**Safety Truck and its driver/educator Glen Schmidtke are due to arrive Kewdale at 6pm today, having driven from Newcastle NSW via Melbourne through SA and into WA.**



*Safety Truck admires the view heading into WA, 31 July 2016*

The Road Safety Commissioner for Western Australia, Kim Papalia, has welcomed the Safety Truck initiative due to the number of heavy vehicles on the state's roads transporting general freight, ore, grain and livestock.

Of the 88 road fatalities in WA during the first six months of 2016, 12 of the fatalities involved a truck in the crash.

And while national BITRE figures for 2015 show 211 people were killed in crashes involving heavy vehicles, recent statistics released by the National Truck Accident Research Centre show that in collisions between cars and trucks involving fatalities, the truck was not at fault 84 per cent of the time.

“This is a great opportunity for general road users to gain an understanding of the length of heavy haulage vehicles and their braking capacity before they attempt to overtake them, as well as the visibility and manoeuvrability limitations of a truck,” Mr Papalia says.

“All road users need to share responsibility to decrease road trauma.”



*The Safety Truck exhibit*

An award-winning mobile education centre, visitors to the Safety Truck exhibit are able to sit in the prime mover cab and benefit from the truck driver’s perspective. Truckies top tips such as not cutting in front of trucks, not overtaking turning trucks, and avoiding truck blind spots then have an immediate and lasting effect. Safety Truck’s trailer contains interactive resources reinforcing the key safety messages.

Driver/educator Glen Schmidtke will steer the Volvo prime-mover and trailer over 12,000kms to major regional shows, community events and primary and secondary schools beginning with the Avon Descent and taking in visits through the Perth Metro, Goldfields, Wheatbelt, South-West and Great Southern.

“We know many of our younger drivers are not specifically taught how to drive safely around heavy vehicles – it’s not included in your L or P plate tests, says Glen.

“Likewise you can hook up and tow a caravan without any additional training requirement on how to manage the increased load alongside other vehicles, and especially on roads frequented by heavy vehicles.

“With WA home to some very big trucking combinations, and the largest number of registered caravans and camper trailers per capita, the skill-set is more important than ever.”

Transafe WA is a non-profit association working with road transport industry participants to encourage best practice in safety and professionalism.

“Working with the ATA and Safety Truck on this tour will add a powerful, interactive resource to the momentum we have been building to engender a greater culture of respect and courtesy on our roads,” says Ana Stachewicz, Executive Officer of Transafe WA.

Share your encounters with Safety Truck on Facebook at #SafetyTruckWA

## Media contacts:

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## Key dates for the Safety Truck Tour of WA, 2016

Date	Event	Region
Sunday 7 August	Avon Descent Family Fun Day, Finish Line Bayswater	Perth Metro
Tuesday 9 August	Cottesloe Primary School	Perth Metro
Wednesday 10 August	Leeming Senior High School	Perth Metro
Thursday 11 August	Melville Senior High School	Perth Metro
Friday 12 August – Sunday 14 August	Skills West Expo, PCEC	Perth Metro
Tuesday 16 August	Clontarf Aboriginal College	Perth Metro
Saturday 20 August	Beverley Agricultural Show	Wheatbelt
Monday 22 August	Northam Senior High School	Wheatbelt
Wednesday 24 – Thursday 25 August	Dowerin Machinery and Field Days	Wheatbelt
Saturday 27 – Sunday 28 August	Goldfields Caravan and Camping Show	Goldfields
Wednesday 31 August	Schools event, Kalgoorlie tbc	Goldfields
Saturday 3 September	Kellerberrin and Districts Agricultural Show	Wheatbelt
Wednesday 7 September – Thursday 8 September	Newdegate Machinery and Field Days	Wheatbelt
Saturday 10 September	Wandering Fair	Wheatbelt
Sunday 11 September	BP Truck Show and Shine	Perth Metro
Wednesday 14 September	Yanchep District High School	Perth Metro
Thursday 15 September	Australian Islamic College, Thornlie	Perth Metro
Saturday 17 September	Moora Show	Wheatbelt
Sunday 18 September	Chittering Wildflower Festival – Historic Vehicle Day	Wheatbelt
Wednesday 21 September	Collie Event tbc Rotary event Busselton	South-West
Thursday 22 September	Cornerstone Christian College, Busselton	South-West
Friday 23 September	Schools event Busselton, tbc	South-West
Saturday 24 September	Emergency Services Expo, Dunsborough	South-West
Sunday 25 September	Rotary Markets at Signal Park, Busselton	South-West
Thursday 29 September	Manjimup tbc	South-West
Saturday 1 October	Albany Town Square	Great Southern