

MEDIA RELEASE



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ESC VITAL TO VEHICLE SAFETY AND SAVING LIVES

Australia's leading vehicle safety consumer advocate – the Australasian New Car Assessment Program - has challenged political parties to ensure Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is available in all vehicles manufactured and sold in Australia.

Speaking following the release of MUARC research showing how ESC markedly reduces single-vehicle crashes, ANCAP Chair Lauchlan McIntosh called on political parties to ensure safer vehicles were available to Australian motorists and their families.

The MUARC research looked at accidents in Australia involving cars with and without ESC and showed it is particularly effective in reducing single vehicle accidents – a 27% reduction in single car crashes and 68% reduction in single-vehicle 4WD crashes.

“ESC has proven to reduce crashes – particularly roll-over crashes among four wheel drives – and ANCAP believes governments should move to ensure this is a standard feature on Australian cars,” Mr McIntosh said.

“ESC saves lives and, in a country where five people die each day on the roads, all governments should support this technology which will save Australians from crashes, serious injury and death.

“The United States Government recently regulated for progressive introduction of ESC on cars and other light vehicles from September 2008.

“With ESC already standard on the locally manufactured Holden Commodore, Toyota Camry and Toyota Aurion, the Australian government should be fast-tracking regulations to require this life-saving feature on all vehicles.

“It is the Federal Government has primary responsibility for safer cars, and the introduction of ESC is something that government should be supporting and actively promoting.”

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