Driver Distraction

Key Findings

Every 96 seconds

drivers are engaged in a non-driving activity

2x crash risk

when a driver glances off the forward roadway for more than 2 seconds

A significant number of Australian drivers engage in distracting activities prohibited by road legislation while knowing that it could increase their risk of crashing

79% of drivers agree that talking on a mobile phone while driving increases the risk of being involved in a crash

21% of drivers admitted that they use their mobile phones for non-driving activities e.g. internet browsing, texting, taking photos or using applications

The three most common types of driver distraction are:

Manual distraction

Visual distraction

Cognitive distraction

The impairments from using a mobile phone while driving can be as profound as those associated with driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 percent

Outdated road rules

The emergence of new sources of distraction

A lack of clarity in the road rules about unlawful driver behaviours

Footnotes:
1 Klauer, SG, Dingus, TA, Neale, VL, Sudweeks, JD, & Ramsey, DJ 2006
2 Beanland, V, Fitzharris, M, Young, K & Lenné, MG 2013
4 Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities 2018
5 Strayer, DL, Drews, FA & Crouch, DJ 2006