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ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1954.

This summary contains an analysis of the Road Traffic Accidents (known to the Police) which occurred in public thoroughfares during the quarter ended 30th September, 1954 and which resulted in death or in bodily injury to any person to an extent requiring medical or surgical treatment, or in damage to property in excess of £10. It should be noted, however, that the comparability of the statistics between States, even on this basis, still depends on the degree to which accidents so defined are in fact recorded by the Police. Under legislation passed in Tasmania on 10th August, 1954 it is no longer obligatory to report accidents involving only damage to property. During this quarter 585 accidents which occurred in Victoria during the June quarter were reported. Details of these accidents, which have not been included below pending further investigation, may be obtained on request.

TABLE I - ACCIDENTS (KNOWN TO THE POLICE) AND CASUALTIES RESULTING THEREFROM

Period	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A. (a)	TAS.	A.C.T.	TOTAL (b)
<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED</u>								
Year - 1951-52 ..	22,662	16,559	12,545	8,373	4,552	3,162	257	68,110
1952-53 ..	24,382	16,351	14,916	8,154	7,510	3,664	310	75,295
1953-54 ..	29,514	15,729	17,875	10,320	8,979	3,957	265	85,639
September Qtr. 1953	6,693	4,049	4,070	2,288	2,047	904	80	20,131
December " 1953	7,614	3,733	4,452	2,577	2,241	1,020	72	21,699
March " 1954	7,111	3,846	4,393	2,502	2,084	983	54	20,973
June " 1954	8,096	4,701	4,960	2,953	2,607	1,060	59	23,836
September " 1954	8,202	3,640	4,937	3,181	2,684	900	62	23,606
<u>ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES</u>								
Year - 1951-52 ..	10,292	10,111	5,214	2,114	2,265	1,027	121	31,144
1952-53 ..	9,944	10,098	5,748	1,998	2,688	1,028	131	31,635
1953-54 ..	11,691	10,122	6,349	2,742	3,079	982	143	35,108
September Qtr. 1953	2,624	2,496	1,544	528	650	220	39	8,101
December " 1953	3,078	2,403	1,692	699	784	247	43	8,946
March " 1954	2,829	2,508	1,469	701	771	266	30	8,574
June " 1954	3,160	2,715	1,644	814	874	249	31	9,487
September " 1954	3,016	2,431	1,534	828	838	249	23	8,919
<u>PERSONS KILLED</u>								
Year - 1951-52 ..	741	603	251	172	194	87	6	2,054
1952-53 ..	663	515	301	136	182	56	3	1,856
1953-54 ..	728	491	278	153	175	67	6	1,898
September Qtr. 1953	189	131	75	38	46	20	1	500
December " 1953	167	95	75	31	43	12	3	426
March " 1954	177	114	58	37	42	8	1	437
June " 1954	195	151	70	47	44	27	1	535
September " 1954	202	121	56	30	44	20	2	475
<u>PERSONS INJURED</u>								
Year - 1951-52 ..	12,637	12,531	6,561	2,497	2,771	1,215	164	38,376
1952-53 ..	12,459	12,564	7,152	2,449	3,373	1,246	162	39,405
1953-54 ..	14,660	12,807	7,933	3,420	3,935	1,156	174	44,085
September Qtr. 1953	3,135	3,110	1,904	657	786	244	47	9,883
December " 1953	3,896	3,008	2,154	887	998	302	53	11,298
March " 1954	3,638	3,256	1,834	855	1,047	324	35	10,989
June " 1954	3,991	3,433	2,041	1,021	1,104	286	39	11,915
September " 1954	3,681	2,556	2,001	1,031	1,094	314	28	11,105

(a) Figures have been collected on a basis comparable with other States from 1st January, 1953. Prior to that date details for Western Australia related to all accidents which occurred in the Metropolitan Area but only to those involving fatal or "near fatal" injury in the remainder of the State. (b) Excludes Northern Territory.

TABLE II - TYPES OF ROAD USERS KILLED OR INJURED - AUSTRALIA

Types of Road Users	September Quarter, 1953					September Quarter, 1954				
	Males	Females	No.	Persons		Males	Females	No.	Persons	
				Per Mill. of Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.				Per Mill. of Population	Per 100,000 Motor Veh's. Reg'd.
PERSONS KILLED										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	76	4	80	9	4	85	4	89	10	4
Motor Cyclists	92	-	92	10	5	62	-	62	7	3
Pedal Cyclists	25	4	29	3	2	21	3	24	3	1
Passengers (a)	85	36	121	14	6	78	35	113	12	6
Pedestrians	135	42	177	20	10	122	60	182	20	10
Other Classes (b)	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	5	1	-
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	414	86	500	56	27	369	106	475	53	24

PERSONS INJURED										
Drivers of Motor Vehicles	1,795	152	1,947	220	10	2,162	204	2,366	263	12
Motor Cyclists	1,679	23	1,702	193	9	1,604	16	1,620	180	8
Pedal Cyclists	900	148	1,048	119	5	1,016	198	1,214	135	6
Passengers (a)	1,657	1,480	3,137	355	17	2,004	1,780	3,784	421	19
Pedestrians	1,319	688	2,007	227	10	1,371	721	2,092	233	11
Other Classes (b)	40	2	42	5	2	28	1	29	3	1
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	7,390	2,493	9,883	1,119	53	8,185	2,920	11,105	1,235	57

(a) All types including pillion riders. (b) Includes tram drivers, riders of horses and drivers of horse-drawn vehicles.

TABLE III - FEATURES OF ROADWAYS ON WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCURRED
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1954

Location	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
At Intersections:				
Controlled by Police ..	85	22	1	28
Controlled by Traffic Lights ..	277	99	1	113
Uncontrolled ..	8,255	3,189	128	3,897
Other than at Intersections:				
Straight Road ..	11,787	4,429	242	5,382
Bend or Curve - view open ..	1,875	741	69	1,058
Bend or Curve - view obscured ..	463	174	15	255
Bridge, Culvert or Causeway ..	317	84	3	115
Steep Hill ..	239	80	7	105
Top of Hill ..	110	27	2	35
Railway Level Crossing -				
(a) Guarded by gates ..	29	5	-	8
(b) Guarded by lights, flagmen or other mechanically operated signals	21	8	2	10
(c) Unguarded by (a) or (b) ..	81	39	5	75
Other Locations ..	59	21	-	23
Location not stated ..	8	1	-	1
TOTAL:	23,606	8,919	475	11,105

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1954

Notes:- Classification according to cause of accident must be regarded as approximate only. Contributory causes and conflicting or incomplete evidence make precise classification difficult.

Causes of Road Accidents	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
Drivers of Motor Vehicles (excluding Motor Cycles) responsible				
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	1,025	502	59	787
Failing to keep to the left ..	1,040	290	12	466
Failing to give right of way at intersection	3,042	817	12	1,149
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	655	207	3	247
Inexperience or infirmity of driver	256	92	7	116
Inattentive driving ..	4,317	1,123	68	1,457
Driver intoxicated ..	625	187	17	281
Reversing without care ..	649	60	2	66
Overtaking ..	561	122	6	186
Driver asleep or drowsy ..	221	102	13	149
Dazzled by lights of an approaching vehicle	311	109	6	159
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	735	182	3	246
Crossing railway level crossing without due care	69	33	5	70
Other causes ..	1,585	220	14	256
Total:	15,091	4,046	227	5,635
Riders of Motor Cycles responsible				
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	168	134	18	163
Failing to keep to the left ..	74	55	5	60
Failing to give right of way at intersection	216	151	6	167
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	25	17	-	18
Rider intoxicated ..	21	13	1	15
Inexperience with type of vehicle in use	43	38	-	41
Inattentive riding ..	373	275	14	317
Overtaking ..	77	62	2	75
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	87	55	1	67
Other causes ..	101	75	1	90
Total:	1,185	875	48	1,013
Pedal Cyclists responsible				
Failing to keep to the left ..	45	40	2	41
Failing to give right of way at intersection	61	53	1	55
Failing to make right hand turn with due care	23	21	1	21
Inattentive riding ..	337	326	7	342
Failing to give or observe traffic signs/signals	49	47	3	45
Other causes ..	139	113	5	116
Total:	634	600	19	620
Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals responsible				
	13	2	-	2
Pedestrians responsible				
Crossing roadway without due care ..	939	930	81	877
Stepping off kerb without due care ..	44	44	-	47
Intoxicated ..	113	110	13	101
Children not under, or breaking away from, supervision ..	315	311	14	303
Boarding vehicle on wrong side or in motion	48	48	1	47
Infirmity or sudden illness ..	13	13	1	52
Other causes ..	170	170	10	166
Total:	1,642	1,626	120	1,553
Passengers responsible				
Alighting from vehicle in motion or on wrong side	64	62	3	61
Falling from, or riding improperly on, vehicle	107	107	4	107
Intoxicated ..	18	18	1	18
Other causes ..	48	39	-	52
Total:	237	226	8	238

TABLE IV - CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES ACCORDING TO CAUSE
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1954 (CONT'D.)

Causes of Road Accidents	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>Vehicle Defects</u>				
Defective brakes	431	117	11	171
Defective steering	309	107	2	166
Defective tyres (i.e., blow-out)	234	107	6	173
Inadequate or incorrectly adjusted lights	206	121	5	144
Insecure or excessive loading	64	18	1	18
Other defects	232	84	5	92
<u>Total:</u>	1,476	555	30	764
<u>Accidents Attributed to Animals</u>	657	121	5	143
<u>Accidents Attributed to Road Conditions</u>				
Road surface loosely gravelled	548	179	6	241
Road surface wet and slippery	690	214	1	277
Road obstructions and other faults	368	155	1	196
<u>Total:</u>	1,606	548	8	714
<u>Accidents Attributed to Weather</u>	260	89	6	119
<u>Accidents Attributed to Parties not Involved</u>	662	197	3	256
<u>Other Causes</u>	143	34	1	48
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	23,606	8,919	475	11,105

TABLE V - CLASSES OF VEHICLES OR ROAD USERS INVOLVED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS -
SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1954

Nature of Accident	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Casualties	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
<u>COLLISIONS</u>				
<u>Motor Vehicle (other than Motor Cycle) with -</u>				
Motor Vehicle (other than motor cycle)	11,152	1,760	56	2,782
Motor Cycle	1,818	1,191	41	1,341
Pedal Cycle	1,001	933	22	954
Tram	345	59	4	76
Railway Vehicle	93	44	6	84
Pedestrian	1,869	1,836	161	1,752
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	595	53	1	67
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	1,809	421	32	634
Other	7	-	-	-
<u>Motor Cycle with -</u>				
Motor Cycle	63	49	-	68
Pedal Cycle	96	84	1	111
Tram	8	8	2	7
Railway Vehicle	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian	184	178	9	208
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	97	79	4	93
Fixed Object (including parked vehicle)	115	85	6	92
Other	2	2	1	1
<u>Total : Collisions involving motor vehicles</u>	19,254	6,782	346	8,270
<u>Other Collisions involving -</u>				
Pedal Cycle	115	109	3	122
Tram	96	90	1	103
Animal or Animal-drawn Vehicle	8	2	-	2
Other Vehicle	3	1	-	1
<u>Total : Collisions</u>	19,476	6,984	350	8,498
<u>NON-COLLISIONS:</u>				
Vehicle overturning or leaving roadway	3,843	1,687	116	2,354
Passenger Accidents	251	245	8	249
Other Accidents	36	3	1	4
<u>Total : Non-Collisions</u>	4,130	1,935	125	2,607
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	23,606	8,919	475	11,105

S. R. CARVER
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

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