



*For immediate release*

**Melbourne’s most dangerous accident hotspots revealed**

*Springvale Road in Glen Waverley takes the triple crown as Melbourne’s worst crash hotspot for third year*

The stretches of Springvale Road in Glen Waverley and Plenty Road in Bundoora have dishonourably been crowned the two most dangerous hotspots in Melbourne for car accidents, according to new data revealed in AAMI’s Crash Index.

In the past three years, more accidents have occurred on these stretches of road in Melbourne than any other location in Victoria, with Bell Street in Preston also appearing in the top five each year.

Melbourne’s most dangerous accident hotspots remain unchanged from last year except for Princes Highway in Dandenong, which has bounced back from 2012 to reappear in the top five this year.

Analysis of almost 240,000 accident insurance claims across the nation in 2014 show the top five crash hotspots in Melbourne were:

#	Road	Suburb
1.	Springvale Road	Glen Waverley
2.	Plenty Road	Bundoora
3.	Springvale Road	Springvale
4.	Bell Street	Preston
5.	Princes Highway	Dandenong

“All of the crash hotspots in Melbourne are multi-lane roads with relatively high speed limits,” AAMI spokesperson, Reuben Aitchison said.

“Other commonalities between these roads are busy intersections and a high number of traffic lights which contribute to a constant flow of traffic and congestion throughout the day.

“Long stretches of straight road at some of these locations, combined with high speed limits, make them prone to reckless driving, including drag racing. Unfortunately we tend to see a high number of collisions involving drivers under the age of 25, with accidents frequently occurring late at night.”

Mr Aitchison said: “Our advice is simple – if you find yourself driving on one of these accident-prone stretches of road or anywhere in heavy traffic, leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front, concentrate on your driving and expect the unexpected from other road users.”

As part of the AAMI Crash Index, AAMI surveyed over 3,700 drivers from across the country, and discovered that almost three quarters (74%) of those who had had experienced a crash in the past five years acknowledged their most recent accident was avoidable.



Almost a third of drivers (29%) say distraction or loss of concentration played a part, while a quarter (24%) admit carelessness was a contributing factor to their accident.

Mr Aitchison added: “Driver distraction is not a new problem, and given the increase in technology distraction we have seen in our behavioural research, it is concerning but perhaps not surprising that the proportion of accidents caused by distractions in the car has risen from 7% to 11% in the past year.”

“On the other hand we’ve seen fewer drivers blaming other drivers for their accident, dropping from 46% to 40% in the past year, and a steady increase over the past three years in drivers admitting their accident was avoidable. This suggests that drivers are starting to accept more responsibility for their driving behaviours and mistakes instead of finger pointing.”

#	Top 10 Contributing Factors	
1.	Other driver(s)	40%
2.	Distraction/ Loss of concentration	29%
3.	Carelessness	24%
4.	Traffic congestion	12%
5.	Bad weather	12%

#	Top 10 Contributing Factors	
6.	Impatience	11%
7.	Bad roads/ infrastructure	11%
8.	Speeding	8%
9.	Fatigue	7%
10.	Alcohol	7%

Interestingly, when asked about what actions would help make Australian roads safer, three quarters (75%) of motorists said tougher penalties for unsafe driving behaviour and mandatory safe driving courses (72%) would go some way towards reducing accidents on our roads.

[ENDS]

For further information or to arrange an interview:

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Note to Editors:

Info graphics are available upon request

**About the research** - Newspoll conducted an independent internet survey of 3,714 Australian drivers, 18 years of age and over, in 2014, 985 of these drivers had personally been involved in a car accident in the past 5 years. Data was collected in line with ISO 20252 – Market, Social and Opinion Research and has been weighted with current ABS population demographics to ensure any extrapolation of results is representative of age, sex and area.