



For immediate release

Nose to tail prangs are the most common crash on VIC roads

Victorian drivers are crashing nose to tail more often than any other type of collision, according to new data revealed in AAMI’s Crash Index.

In the past year, the rate of parked car dings has increased, moving up from third to second place, while collisions caused by failure to give-way is now the third most common type of prang on Victorian roads.

Analysis AAMI’s claims data covering more than 95,000 accidents in Victoria in 2014 showed the five most common types of crashes are:

VIC	National
1. Nose to tail (29.4%)	1. Nose to tail (28.3%)
2. Parked car dings (21.8%)	2. Parked car dings (22%)
3. Failed to give way (20.9%)	3. Failed to give way (19.8%)
4. Collision with a stationary object (12.9%)	4. Collision with a stationary object (14.5%)
5. Collision while reversing (11.2%)	5. Collision while reversing (10.8%)

AAMI spokesperson, Reuben Aitchison, said that there needs to be a shift in drivers’ mindsets.

“Nose to tail crashes are consistently the number one type of collision over the years and they often related to factors including impatience, distraction and travelling too close to the car in front.

“Following the person in front too closely or ‘tailgating’ is not going to get you to your destination any faster,” Mr Aitchison said. “If the car in front stops suddenly you won’t have enough time to brake safely and you’re more likely to end up crashing into them, not only causing damage to both cars but potentially injuring yourself and the other driver.”

Analysis of AAMI’s national claims data reveal that failure to give-way prangs has been on a downward trend since 2002, while parked car dings have increased by nearly 10% between 1999 and 2014.

Mr Aitchison commented: “We are leading busier lives, rushing more and as a consequence not paying attention and letting impatience get the better of us.”

“Giving way on the road is also something Victorian drivers are not particularly good at and indicates that they need to brush up on their knowledge of the road rules. People don’t realise that this type of collision can cause serious injury, and even death, especially if it involves vehicles travelling at high speeds or motorcycles and bike riders,” Mr Aitchison warned.

As part of the AAMI Crash Index, AAMI surveyed over 3,700 Australians and found that almost half (45%) of drivers who had experienced a crash admitted to changing their driving behaviour by driving slower, leaving more space between cars, or overtaking less often. A quarter (25%) of drivers said they had upgraded their car to a safer model and one in five (21%) had caught public transport more often.



Mr Aitchison concluded: “It’s important to remember that almost three quarters of these were not ‘accidents’, by the driver’s own admission – they were avoidable collisions. A little more attention, a little more patience and everyone will get there faster and in one piece.”

[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.