

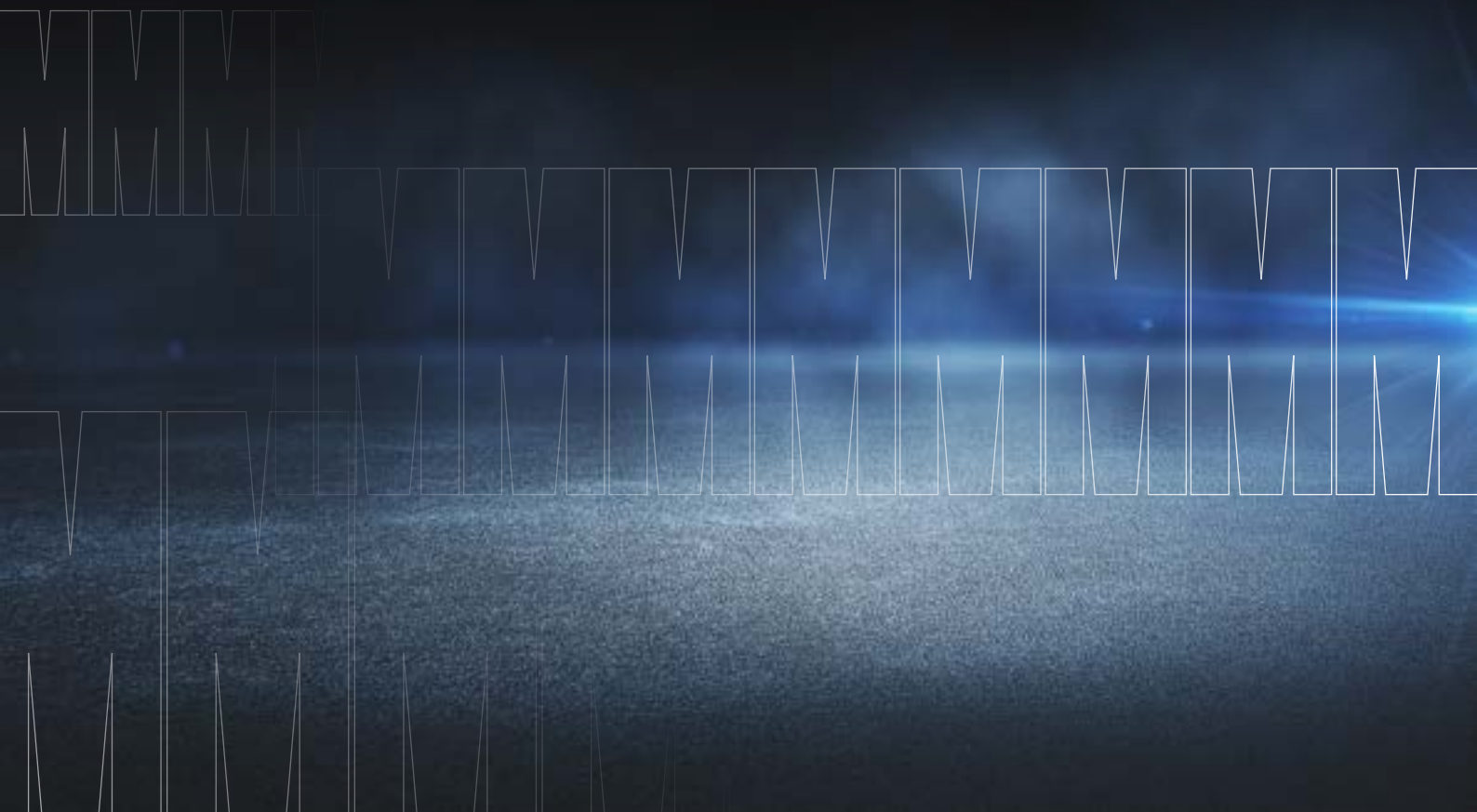


MONASH
University

ACCIDENT
RESEARCH
CENTRE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT MUARC

MONASH UNIVERSITY ACCIDENT RESEARCH CENTRE



“The scale of impact achieved
by MUARC research is
only possible through the
dedication and expertise of
its staff and students.”

Professor Stuart Newstead

Director, Monash University Accident Research Centre

The Monash University Accident Research Centre acknowledges
the people of the Kulin Nations, on whose land we study and work.
We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

FOREWORD

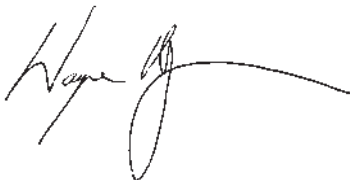
It is my great pleasure to introduce the 2025 Annual Report for the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC). As Dean of the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences, I had the opportunity during 2025 to engage closely with MUARC as the Centre explored its future faculty alignment. Throughout these discussions, I witnessed firsthand the remarkable energy, rigour, and purpose that defines MUARC, and I am delighted to welcome the Centre into our Faculty family as we move into an exciting new chapter together.

2025 has been a year of exceptional achievement for MUARC. The Centre's research impact has never been more evident: from their research being used to guide regulatory mandates for Autonomous Emergency Braking and Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems on electric vehicles, to evidence informing a Western Australian parliamentary inquiry, and the safety of communities across Victoria and beyond. The high funding application success rate, strong HERDC Category 2 funding, and total research revenue exceeding \$6 million, are testaments to the esteem in which MUARC's researchers and their expertise are held by government and industry partners.

I am particularly proud to acknowledge the Centre's people. MUARC's staff and students are its greatest strength, and their achievements in 2025 - from prestigious awards and fellowships to new international collaborations and PhD conferrals - reflect a culture of excellence and genuine commitment to making a difference. I extend my warmest congratulations to all those recognised this year, and my sincere thanks to the MUARC Centre Management Group and Steering Council for their guidance and support throughout 2025.

The transition of MUARC into the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences from 1 January 2026 is a natural and promising evolution that will strengthen MUARC's education and operations. The Centre's mission to prevent injury and improve safety aligns profoundly with the broader health and wellbeing focus of our Faculty, and I am confident this new home will further enhance the Centre's distinctive identity. I look forward to seeing the collaborations, teaching opportunities, and research partnerships that will emerge and flourish through this new chapter.

I commend this report to you and extend my congratulations to Professor Stuart Newstead and all of the MUARC team on a truly outstanding year.



Professor Wayne Hodgson
Dean, Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monash University

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

For over 38 years since its inception, MUARC has sat outside of the faculty structures within Monash University, reflecting and supporting the multidisciplinary nature of its research. In mid-2025, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) portfolio, to which MUARC was reporting, made the strategic decision to integrate university level research centres and institutes, including MUARC, into faculties.

The objective of faculty integration was to better leverage the structures and support services of the faculties to strengthen research governance and performance, including graduate research training, provide better connection with faculty research networks and to provide greater opportunities to grow professional and accredited education offerings. The latter objective aimed to help underpin the financial viability of centres and institutes, and provide opportunities to connect students to leading edge research with real world impact.

After extensive consultation with each of the faculties across Monash University, and considering MUARC's primary mission in injury prevention, the decision was made to integrate MUARC into the faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (MNHS) within the sub-faculty of Health Sciences from January 2026.

MUARC is delighted to be able to join MNHS which has an outstanding international profile in research excellence and impact. Integration will provide enhanced support and opportunities for MUARC to continue and expand its work in injury prevention research and education through building and expanding networks within the faculty.

Importantly, it will enhance MUARC's capacity to continue and grow the work we do with our key external partners in government and industry to achieve even greater impact in preventing injury in the community. I would like to thank the Executive Dean of the faculty of MNHS, Professor Christina Mitchell, and the Dean of the sub-faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Wayne Hodgson, to whom MUARC will report, for their support in facilitating MUARC's transition to MNHS. I would also like to acknowledge the support of MUARC by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor-Research and Enterprise (DVC-RE) portfolio over many years.

The timing of MUARC's transition to MNHS was opportune, underpinned by a year of exceptional performance for the Centre. Research revenue for the Centre exceeded \$6m with success in research funding applications in an increasingly competitive environment reaching 82%, up from 70% in 2024.

HERDC Category 2 funding represented 93% of all research income showing the key role MUARC continues to play in informing and shaping government policy and programs in injury prevention. MUARC continued to serve a diverse range of research clients with 2025 research income provided by 13 different organisations with seven key partners making major contributions.

Aligning with the Monash University Impact 2030 strategic objectives, MUARC's research continued to have a significant impact on reducing injuries in the community. MUARC's Vehicle Safety Research Program has provided the basis for implementation or drafting of a range of vehicle safety standards for implementation under the Australian Design Rule process including autonomous emergency braking and lane keeping assist technologies for all light vehicles sold in Australia.

Pioneering research by MUARC working with Vision Australia formed the backbone of the government consultations leading to the introduction of Australian Design Rule 113, mandating Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS) for new model low emission and electric vehicles to reduce road trauma amongst vision impaired Australians.

MUARC's Young Novice Australian Naturalistic Driving Study (YANDS) results were published with these findings and those from MUARC's review of Queensland's learner driver program review helping to shape graduated licensing policy. MUARC's study of seatbelt use among pregnant drivers received national media attention, leading to an international collaboration with the US Insurance Institute for Highway Safety on this important issue. Updates to road rules for child restraint use and rideshare safety also stemmed from MUARC research findings.

Research on the effectiveness of automated enforcement conducted by MUARC across Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and Tasmania is helping to develop optimum principles for program deployment that will maximise road safety outcomes from investment in these programs.

Electronic micro-mobility devices are growing rapidly in popularity internationally with concerns mounting about the injury burden they pose. MUARC's Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit completed a study quantifying the growing hospital presentation and admission burden relating to these devices which was heavily referenced in a Western Australian Government parliamentary inquiry, considering effective pathways to address this growing injury burden.

The National Road Safety Partnership Program reached its 10 + 1 year milestone, now supporting over 150 organisations in their workplace road safety activities, launching a new website, logo, and partnership model. The community relevance of MUARC's work was evidenced through its media profile achieving 1490 media hits, 1.06 billion audience reach with media exposure for Monash University valued at \$6.66 million.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

82%

SUCCESS RATE FROM
FUNDING APPLICATIONS

\$6.4M

RESEARCH INCOME

93%

OF INCOME
HERDC CATEGORY 2

13

FUNDING ORGANISATIONS,
INCLUDING 7 KEY PARTNERS

39

STAFF

20

PHD STUDENTS

2

ACCREDITED POSTGRADUATE
COURSEWORK UNITS

2

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
OFFERINGS

The scale of impact achieved by MUARC research is only possible through the dedication and expertise of its 39 staff and 20 graduate research students, many of whom had significant achievements during the year. Four of our PhD cohort, Drs Iniya Arularasu, Suresh Pokharel, Briohny Kennedy, and Emily Fitzgerald completed their doctorates in 2025, with seven new students commencing their research training journey. The quality of MUARC's graduate research programs was also evidenced through four visiting international students choosing MUARC to enhance their learning and collaboration.

Academic excellence by staff is acknowledged through MUARC's Peter Vulcan prize for Best Research Paper. In 2025, this was awarded to Dr Amanda Stephens (researcher) and Christine Mulvihill (student). Receiving international recognition were Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel who was elected President of Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, the first behavioural scientist to lead the organisation, and former MUARC Director and current Emeritus Professor Claes Tingvall who received the Swedish Royal Illis Quorum Medal for outstanding contribution to Swedish society. The broader commitment of MUARC staff to environmental sustainability was rewarded through achieving Diamond Accreditation in the Monash Green Impact program.

With a move to the faculty of MNHS in 2026, the focus for MUARC will be continuing to deliver excellence and impact in injury prevention research. To support this, a new Advisory Committee will be formed which will be pivotal in the development of a new MUARC strategic plan aligned to Faculty and University priorities that will underpin future success.

This will include consideration of leveraging the opportunity to expand MUARC's educational offerings and building research collaborations across the faculty and university to strengthen our research programs and embed MUARC as an integrated Centre in the faculty.



Professor Stuart Newstead
Director, Monash University Accident Research Centre

OUR PURPOSE

Through excellence in injury prevention research and translation, we support, challenge and engage citizens, communities, governments and industry to eliminate injury from all causes.

Established in 1987, the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) has built an enduring reputation for excellence in safety science and injury prevention research, education and research training. As part of a leading global university, we take pride in a legacy spanning nearly four decades, one that has consistently shaped policy and practice, making a tangible difference to people's lives. That legacy is guided by a clear vision: an injury-free society, achieved through excellence in injury prevention research and meaningful partnerships with government, industry and communities.

Our research reaches across road and transport safety, workplace safety, and injury prevention in the home and community. Its influence is reflected in peer-reviewed publications, government policy references, research reports, media engagement and the strong satisfaction of our students and stakeholders. Everything we do is anchored in relevance and forward momentum, informed by our governance bodies, Monash University's *Impact 2030* strategy, and a broad network of local, national and international partners.

With a multidisciplinary team of more than 50 researchers and postgraduate students, MUARC's greatest strength is the depth and diversity of our people. Situated within Monash University, a Group of Eight university, we bring together expertise across project design, program evaluation, data analysis, scenario modelling and evidence-based policy to tackle complex safety challenges comprehensively. We are equally committed to training the next generation of safety science leaders and fostering collaboration with academics across Monash and around the world.

MUARC's work is deeply aligned with Monash University's mission to address the defining challenges of the age, from climate change and geopolitical security to thriving communities. By drawing on our expertise and resources, we aim to drive meaningful reductions in injury and inform the policies and interventions that protect people in Australia and internationally.

At its core, MUARC is a centre defined by collaboration, curiosity and purpose. As a globally recognised leader in safety science and injury prevention, we remain dedicated to pushing the boundaries of research and innovation, and to building safer, healthier communities for all.

OUR WHY

INJURY PREVENTION

Of the 4.4 million injury-related deaths globally each year, unintentional injuries take the lives of 3.16 million people and violence-related injuries kill 1.25 million people. Roughly 1 in 3 deaths result from road traffic crashes, while falls account for over 684,000 deaths.¹

In Australia, injury is a major cause of preventable death and disability and the leading cause of death among people under 45. The leading causes of injury hospitalisations were falls, followed by contact with objects, and transport. Young children aged 0–4 had the highest rates of ED presentations due to injury of any age group²

ROAD SAFETY

In 2025, 1311 people died on Australian roads.³

The WHO Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, and the Victorian Road Safety Strategy call for a reduction in road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030.^{4,5} The Australian Federal Government's National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030 targets Vision Zero: eliminating road deaths and serious injuries by 2050.⁶ The Victorian Government's Road Safety Action Plan emphasises using research and data to guide road safety improvements, and reaffirms its commitment to partnering with MUARC to achieve these outcomes.⁷

WORKPLACE SAFETY

In 2024, there were 188 worker fatalities in Australia, 96% men. Australia's current work-related injury rate is 3.5%, roughly one-third the global rate of 12.1%.

Vehicle incidents are the leading cause of worker fatalities (42%), followed by falls from a height (13%).

Claims for mental health conditions are increasing (12% of serious claims) with median time lost from work almost 5 times that recorded across all injuries/diseases.⁸

Safe Work Australia has set targets of a 30% reduction in worker fatalities and 20% reduction in serious claims by 2033.⁹

HOME AND COMMUNITY

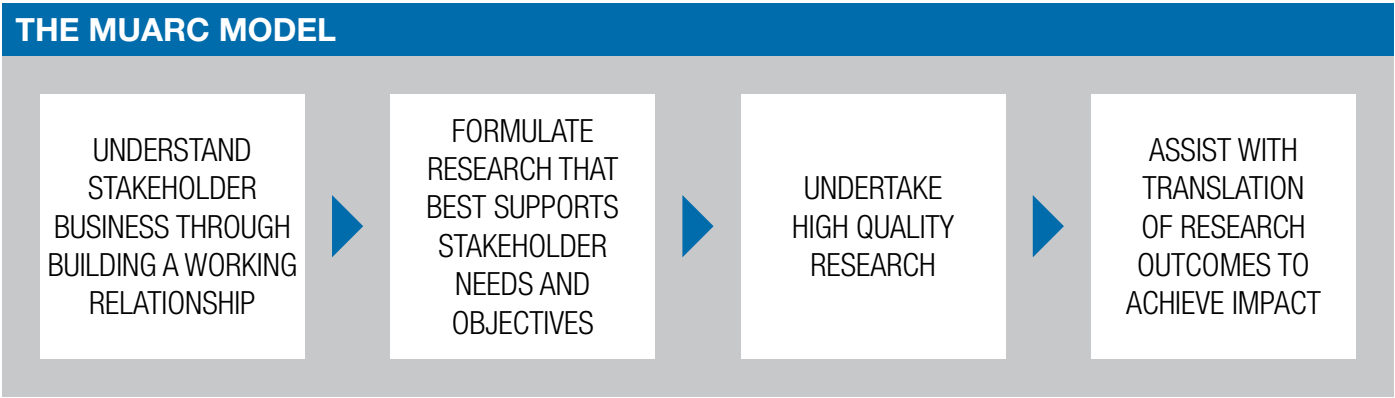
In 2025, 358 large-scale events caused 16,607 deaths, and affected over 110 million people globally.¹⁰ In Australia, natural disasters currently cost the economy \$38 billion per year,¹¹ with up to 41% of people experiencing a disaster in 2023.¹²

Australia's International Development Policy and Humanitarian Policy commits Australia to build regional resilience by supporting partner governments and communities to lead their own climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.¹³

References: <https://www.monash.edu/muarc/annual-report/home/sources>

OUR EXPERTISE

MUARC’s greatest asset is its people - a passionate, multidisciplinary team of experts and emerging researchers deeply committed to making a difference. Our staff and students bring together world-class industry experience, combining scientific rigour with practical insight to address the most pressing safety challenges of our time.



OUR IMPACT

Monash University's *Impact 2030* strategy charts a purposeful course: one built on creating understanding and innovation through collaboration; and on confronting the defining global challenges of our time. Central to that ambition is the ability to connect communities and industries with world-class education and research. MUARC plays a vital role in that connection, delivering evidence-based insights that shape injury prevention policy and practice across diverse settings - locally, nationally and internationally.

Our research is designed to reach beyond the institution. We translate complex findings into accessible knowledge, equipping communities and policy makers with the tools they need to make informed decisions about safety, and driving meaningful change for the greater good.

MUARC in the media

1.49k	1.06 billion	\$6.66 million
MEDIA HITS	AUDIENCE REACH	WORTH OF MEDIA EXPOSURE
MEDIA CHANNELS		INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REACH
38% ONLINE NEWS		USA UK New Zealand Canada France Pakistan India Switzerland Poland Nigeria Vietnam
36% RADIO		
18% SOCIAL COMMENTARY		
4% PRINT NEWS		
4% TV		

Sharing our knowledge

- 47 ACADEMIC JOURNAL PAPERS
- 11 PUBLIC RESEARCH REPORTS
- 1 HAZARD PUBLICATION
- 4 INSIGHT E-NEWSLETTERS
- 7 CONFERENCES ATTENDED ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND INTERNATIONALLY WITH PRESENTATIONS FROM MORE THAN HALF OUR RESEARCH STAFF

RESEARCH INFORMING POLICY AND PRACTICE

Government regulations and inquiries

MUARC research directly informed major regulatory changes, including the March 2025 mandate for Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) in light vehicles and a national requirement for Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS) in electric and hybrid vehicles. Evidence on Emergency Lane Keeping Systems (ELKS) for light vehicles is informing current consultation on mandatory fitment, with potential to prevent over 70 fatal crashes and 500 serious injury crashes annually. VISU's Hazard report on e-micromobility informed the WA Parliamentary Inquiry into electric micro-mobility, while research on rideshare safety and child restraints is contributing to updates to the Australian Road Rules.

Public resources

Through the National Road Safety Partnership Program, MUARC influenced safety practice across more than 150 organisations. This included delivery of new Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talks and accompanying multilingual resources to increase accessibility.

The program also supports the annual delivery of the Used Car Safety Ratings and NTARC Major Incident Investigation Report, supporting consumers and fleet managers to make safer vehicle choices. MUARC's research was also integral to the creation of the TAC Senior Road User Quiz.

Programs for the community and safety professionals

MUARC shares its latest evidence-informed safe driving behaviours through our newly released *Reducing Aggressive Driving Program* short-course for community members, and upskills road safety professionals through the *Road Safety Management Leadership Program*.

INTERNATIONAL

In 2025, we welcomed a range of international visitors to our Centre including academic Professor Nicole Van Nes, from the Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), Professor Stacy Clemes, and Professor Ashleigh Filtress, from Loughborough University (UK), and four students on exchange, Andrea Raimondi (Italy), Hengyan Pan (China), Francesco Musso (Italy), and Karamjeet Sarna (India).

Additionally, MUARC encourages our staff to travel internationally. This enables them to showcase their research at global conferences, universities and at research institutes, encouraging collaboration and the formation of strong academic networks.

Contribution to the UN SDGs

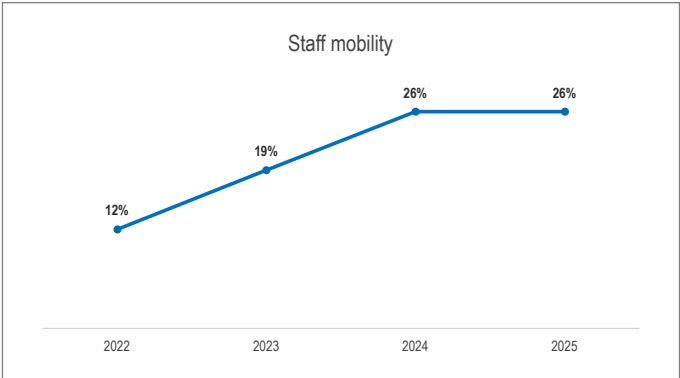
At MUARC, we recognise the significance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in shaping global sustainable development agendas by 2030, as endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. Monash University's ESG Statement has embedded a broad commitment to the SDGs and been a signatory to the 'Universities commitment to the SDGs' charter since December 2016.

In road safety, we address global priorities to reduce deaths and injuries (SDG 3.6), support the development of quality, safe, and resilient transport infrastructure (SDG 9.1), and provide research that supports inclusive systems that reduce inequalities (SDG 10.3). Our work promotes accessible and safe transport for all, especially for vulnerable road users including children, women, older people, and people with disabilities (SDG 11.2).

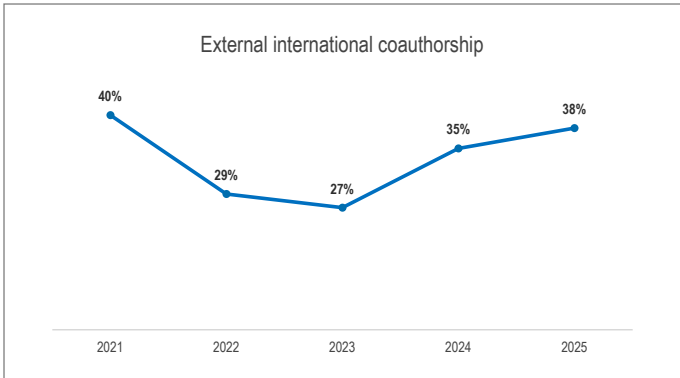
In injury prevention, we contribute to efforts to end preventable deaths of children (SDG 3.2), reduce violence and aggression on roads (SDG 16.1), and protect workers through research into safe and secure working environments (SDG 8.8). Our research also supports the understanding of safety of new electric vehicle technologies (SDG 7.a), and strengthens health systems' capacity for early warning and risk management (SDG 3.d).

Our work in disaster resilience and emergency response builds the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to climate-related and environmental hazards (SDGs 1.5, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3). We support sustainable forest and land management to reduce fire risk and promote resilience (SDGs 15.2, 15.B), while contributing to national and global frameworks for disaster risk reduction (SDG 3.d).

Through education and capacity-building, we empower the next generation of safety professionals (SDG 4.7), foster global citizenship, and promote a culture of non-violence (SDG 16.1). Our programs also improve awareness and institutional capacity on climate change adaptation and mitigation (SDG 13.3), contributing to lasting change. We also collaborate with partners around the world to build system-wide capacity in developing countries, supporting national implementation of all SDGs through knowledge sharing and policy support (SDG 17.9).



International travel ("Staff mobility") in 2025 included to New Zealand, Europe (France, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, UK), North America (USA, Canada) and Asia (South Korea, Japan)



The strength of our international connections can be showcased by research publications with international co-authors.



MUARC research collaborations 2021-2025



2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

ADVANCING SAFE
MOBILITY ACROSS
TRANSPORT,
WORKPLACES, HOMES,
AND COMMUNITIES

Led by Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel, the Behavioural Science team applies innovative, transdisciplinary approaches to understand complex human behaviour and develop practical, evidence-based safety solutions. The team's work spans all transport modes and extends across workplace, home, and community safety contexts. Guided by national safety priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, their research is translated into policy and practice to promote safer environments and enhance wellbeing across the life course.

Recognised nationally as Australia's leading research group focused on safe mobility for older adults, people with medical conditions, and children, the team demonstrated strong research impact throughout 2025. A major highlight was the release of a national study examining seatbelt use among pregnant drivers in Australia. The research identified widespread incorrect seatbelt positioning among pregnant drivers, highlighting a significant opportunity to improve maternal and fetal safety in the event of a crash. The study attracted substantial national media attention and led to an international collaboration with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) to extend this work in the United States.

A further major contribution was the publication of findings from the Young Novice Australian Naturalistic Driving Study (YANDS), a nationally significant collaborative project involving multiple universities and road safety agencies. As one of the largest real-world investigations of early driving behaviour in Australia, the study provides unprecedented insights into novice driver risk exposure, behavioural adaptation, and safety-critical events during the first months of licensure. The findings are expected to play an important role in shaping evidence-based graduated licensing policies and targeted interventions to reduce crash risk among young drivers.

The team partnered with MUARC's Injury Analysis and Data team, with funding from Austroads, to design and undertake an evaluation of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework. In collaboration with the Human Factors and Sustainable Safety team, the team led a systematic review of the safety outcomes associated with the requirements of the graduated licensing system for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland). A new international collaboration with the

University of Melbourne is also underway, examining road safety culture across different countries to better understand how cultural, regulatory, and system-level factors influence road user behaviour and safety outcomes.

Within the workplace road safety domain, the team published findings from the Baseline Research Program that demonstrate how a strong organisational safety culture can foster safer road behaviours. This work provides practical insights to improve work-related road safety in both the light commercial vehicle sector and the rapidly expanding gig economy. The research led to an invited presentation for the Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR).

The team is further leading several major projects for Victorian road safety partners. These include a comprehensive research program on the management of medically and functionally unfit drivers, and a horizon-scanning initiative to identify emerging trends, risks, and opportunities likely to shape the future road safety landscape in Victoria.

Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel was appointed President of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine and received the 2025 Kidsafe Victoria Champion Award in recognition of her longstanding contribution to child occupant protection. During 2025, PhD student Inam Ahmed submitted her thesis, Briony Kennedy was awarded her PhD, and visiting PhD student Hengyan Pan returned to Chang'an University after completing a 12-month research placement at MUARC funded by the China Scholarship Council.

Across the year, the team co-authored 23 peer-reviewed publications through national and international collaborations and presented research at conferences throughout Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. With expertise spanning questionnaire development, neuropsychological assessment, naturalistic driving methodologies, longitudinal research, scientometric analysis, and systematic review methods, the Behavioural Science team delivers rigorous, data-driven insights. Through strong partnerships with government, industry, and academia, including engagement via the National Road Safety Partnership Program, the team continues to influence policy, shape safer systems, and reduce injury risk across multiple sectors.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



EMERGENCY SERVICES RESEARCH

INVESTIGATING SYSTEM-LEVEL INTERACTIONS THAT SHAPE OUTCOMES IN SAFETY-CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTS

Led by Associate Professor Carlyn Muir, the Emergency Services Research team's public health experience and use of systems approaches enables them to examine safety in high-risk environments.

The team covers a diverse range of injury and violence prevention topics that focus on improving outcomes in complex safety-critical environments. Drawing on applied research expertise in public health, psychology, paramedicine and data analysis, the team collaborates extensively with emergency service organisations and other stakeholders to ensure research is aligned with real-world needs and supports the development of effective, actionable strategies.

Research areas include occupational safety and wellbeing of emergency service workers, emergency vehicle safety, the role of emergency services in improving public health outcomes, and community safety. Significant partnerships and long-term data linkage programs have been forged with a number of Australian state fire, ambulance and police agencies.

In 2025, the team continued research into: fleet safety during fire and emergency operations; safety for emergency service workers when responding in high speed road environments; and testing of fire trucks to better understand performance for falling objects and rollover situations. Additionally, the team continued to work with state fire authorities and external partners to increase the safety of emergency service workers nationwide.

A project with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) examined the feasibility of establishing a national fire fatality dataset, and the team continue their work with Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Ambulance Victoria to better understand community injury as a result of CFA-attended events.

The team's expertise had continued demand in 2025, delivering their second workshop on emergency vehicle safety at the Australasian Road Safety Conference in Perth. The team also co-presented with Victoria Police, Griffith University and the University of the Sunshine Coast at the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference in Canada, which focused on translation of evidence into practice for road policing.

PhD student Christine Mulvihill received the 2025 Peter Vulcan Best Paper Award Student for her paper, *To what extent has a systems thinking approach been applied to understand motor vehicle crashes involving ambulances? A systematic review of risk factors and characteristics*.

Research continues to be funded by the team's many partners, including NSW Rural Fire Service, the Department of Transport and Planning, Victoria Police, the Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue NSW, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council, Safe Transport Victoria, and the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program.

The team is recognised for its expertise in research tailored to the needs of partner organisations. Their in-depth understanding of the unique challenges faced by the industry and strength in stakeholder collaboration and network development, makes their work industry-leading and highly sought-after.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



HUMAN FACTORS AND SUSTAINABLE SAFETY

EXPLORING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY WITHIN COMPLEX AND DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTS

Led by Professor Jennie Oxley, the Human Factors and Sustainable Safety team uses a human factors approach to explore the interface between people and technology within complex and dynamic environments, focusing on understanding the system surrounding the individual, and the factors that support and constrain safety behaviour.

The team's research extends to the safety of people at home, at work and the land transport environment with a focus on identifying practicable and feasible solutions to help organisations, regulatory agencies and government bodies address their safety needs. This includes cutting edge research into the influence of worker fatigue and driver aggression on road safety.

In 2025, the team finalised the review of the Queensland Learner Driver Program (LDP), examining online and practical components and their alignment with best practice approaches to successfully equip learner drivers with the skills and competencies needed to become a safe driver and maintain safe driving practices during early licensure. A competency-based framework was developed comprising essential key competencies that learner drivers and their supervisors should gain through their LDP journey and beyond. The framework also identified key actions for implementation including both broad actions and those specific to individual LDP components, and a roadmap for action implementation that can achieve an effective and sustainable LDP.

Additionally, the team, in collaboration with Loughborough University undertook research that focuses on understanding differences in visual and other functional impairments between drivers with early stage dementia and healthy drivers to inform development of a reliable test of fitness to drive based on visual scanning and other functional performance measures amongst individuals with early-stage dementia. This has been expanded to include additional simulator-based and naturalistic driving studies to gather further evidence to inform the development of a prototype Driving Monitoring System designed to sense driving performance and outcomes and provide valuable feedback aimed at supporting safe driving.

In a growing area of research, the team were awarded funding for a project on the implementation of the National Driver Distraction Roadmap, a project funded by Austroads that will generate two guidelines aimed specifically at mitigating distracted driving. Additionally, the team is assessing drivers' perspectives on in-car glucose monitoring devices.

Professor Oxley and Emeritus Professor Judith Charlton were invited to the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Marrakech, where they contributed to meetings and conversations about the challenges for the second half of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with 'engagement with industry' being at the forefront of the agenda. Additionally, the team were given opportunities to present in South Korea, the United Kingdom and Australia.

In 2025, PhD student Doha Alhashmi (co-supervised with Department of Occupational Therapy) completed her thesis '*Safe return to driving after sustaining road traffic injuries: Driver assessment and rehabilitation policy and practice recommendation for Saudi Arabia*' and Honours students Bridget Harland and Bryn Smith completed their research projects within the team.

Research continues to be funded by the team's many partners, including the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Queensland. Funding for the dementia project is made possible through the UK Road Safety Trust and National Road Safety Action Grants from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development. Dr Amanda Stephens was invited to be on the editorial board for Transport Research (Part F), and Professor Oxley was elected as an AIPN executive committee member.

The team draws on research expertise in human factors, using a variety of methods to understand systems under investigation, including on-road testing, driving simulation, surveys, crash investigations, vehicle performance testing, participatory ergonomics design, structured interviews, stakeholder consultation and human factors methods, such as cognitive task analysis, and interface and usability assessment.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



INJURY ANALYSIS AND DATA

USING DATA TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH PROGRAM EVALUATION, STRATEGY MODELLING AND EXPERT ADVICE

Led by Professor Stuart Newstead, the Injury Analysis and Data team has a focus on the assembly and enhancement of large and complex injury prevention data systems and the analysis of these using advanced statistical methodologies to evaluate programs, model safety strategies and generate robust quantitative evidence to advance safety practice.

The team's expertise is highly multidisciplinary with fundamental training including statistics, data science, mechanical and civil engineering, criminology and epidemiology. Their work focuses on road safety, emergency services and injury surveillance research with a long history of contributing to public safety through safety analysis and modelling across jurisdictions in Australia and internationally.

In 2025, the team completed projects examining the definition, estimation and analysis of injury severity metrics in Victoria and NSW, and published research estimating real-world safety benefits associated with blind spot monitoring systems in Australasian passenger vehicles.

The team collaborated with the Human Factors and Sustainable Safety team on their research into the learner licensing component of the Graduated Licensing System for Queensland drivers. The team continued with the evaluation of Queensland's camera-detected offence program for mobile phone and seatbelt offences, and completed evaluations of the Tasmanian and ACT road safety camera programs.

Additionally, the team is continuing research into the evaluation of NSW Automated Enforcement and Safer Roads Programs, which aims to understand if the current programs are operating effectively, and to identify further opportunities for improvement.

A major annual milestone was the release of the 2025 Used Car Safety Ratings, which received significant national media coverage for its emphasis on crash avoidance and vehicle aggressivity, analysing data from Australia and New Zealand. The team's modelling of road safety strategies continues to inform key government priorities, while research on the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework is guiding improvements in licensing standards.

2025 funding partners included the TAC, Transport for NSW, the Tasmanian Department of State Growth, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, along with established government consortium programs, the Vehicle Safety Research Group and Baseline Research Program.

Professor Newstead was awarded the 2025 Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) Fellowship at the Australasian Road Safety Conference in Perth.

Additionally, Professor Newstead was profiled in Wheels Magazine, a full feature that explored his experience and research, highlighting not only personal achievements but MUARC's leadership in advancing road safety through high-impact research. Professor Newstead was invited back to be included on season two of Drive Safer, a Channel 9 program that addresses the alarming rise in road fatalities and promotes responsible driving habits.

The Injury Analysis and Data team has a notable and unique strength in the successful delivery of data-focused, highly analytical research across all injury prevention domains. With expertise in a wide range of research designs and analytical techniques, along with extensive knowledge of key safety data resources, the team has the capacity and capability to deliver high quality research outcomes over a wide range of projects. Areas of specific research expertise include evaluation science, data system design, risk analysis, strategic modelling, survey analysis and statistical epidemiology.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



MONASH UNIVERSITY DISASTER RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

ENABLING COMMUNITY
AND COUNTRY
RESILIENCE THROUGH
COLLABORATION AND
INCLUSION

Led by Associate Professor Jonathan Abrahams, the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative delivers impactful research and projects that build capacities and transform development, emergency management and health systems - enabling communities and countries to reduce risk and strengthen resilience to disasters, hazardous events, and climate change.

The team's multidisciplinary expertise spans emergency risk management, public health, climate adaptation, humanitarian action, and social sciences. They co-develop, deliver, and evaluate evidence-based projects with real-world impact at local, national, regional, and global levels. As an implementing partner in Fire to Flourish, the team's collaborations extend across Monash University faculties in Australia and Malaysia, the World Health Organization, Anglia Ruskin University (UK), Emergency Management Victoria, the Red Cross, Gender and Disaster Australia, and several Australian universities.

In 2025, the team continued to advance the Resilient Hospitals and Health Facilities initiative across the Asia-Pacific region, partnering with Monash Malaysia's REACH hub, the World Health Organization, and the Burnet Institute, with support from the Monash Incubator Program.

Domestically, MUDRI and Fire to Flourish led Monash's role in establishing the Victorian Disaster Research Alliance, uniting key universities across Victoria on disaster and community resilience. The team also continued its collaboration with Monash's HumaniseLab on multihazard early warning platforms, improving access for people with cultural, linguistic, or diverse communication needs.

Other major collaborations included the International Research Institute of Disaster Science at Tohoku University; an international mental health and psychosocial support research group spanning Italy, Japan, the USA, Australia, and the WHO; and a broad Asia-Pacific network on Resilient Hospitals and Health Facilities involving WHO regional offices, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Anglia Ruskin University, and Monash campuses across Australia and Malaysia. National partners included NEMA, Natural Hazards Research Australia, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, Emergency Management Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council, and Gender and Disaster Australia.

The team's work was supported by a diverse funding base, including the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Metal Manufactures Pty Ltd, and the Lowy Foundation through Fire to Flourish; Natural Hazards Research Australia through Queensland University of Technology; the Monash Incubator Program; Tohoku University; and the WHO Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan.

MUDRI builds the capacities of current and future multidisciplinary workforces through practice-oriented education for national and international students. In 2025, this included a significantly revised offering of two accredited Master's-level units covering disaster risk management, humanitarian action, community resilience, and climate change adaptation. Student enrolments doubled year-on-year, reflecting growing interest from students across international development, international relations, sustainable tourism, and beyond. Funding was also substantially bolstered by increased student enrolments in the Master's-level units.

2025 marked the final year of MUDRI's activities within MUARC. Over its lifespan, the initiative built a strong foundation of disaster resilience research, education, and partnerships at local, national, and international levels. Importantly, MUARC continues its expertise in emergency management and services through our Emergency Services Research team, led by Associate Professor Carlyn Muir, and through other research teams across the Centre. Our disaster resilience and community preparedness teaching units will continue to be offered to students in the Faculty of Arts with support from Dr Adriana Keating who will join the MUARC team.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



MENTAL HEALTH, IMPAIRMENT AND INJURY

INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND IMPAIRMENT ON ROAD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Led by Associate Professor Michael Fitzharris, the Mental Health, Impairment and Injury team's psychology expertise underpins their research into the factors associated with being injured and subsequent recovery. The team is focused on the use of technology and the adoption of regulations to improve the safety, independence and wellbeing of society. The team also has a prominent role in MUARC's research on regulation and in-depth crash investigations.

The team adopts a mixed-method, co-designed approach when undertaking research and has expertise in qualitative and quantitative methods, including economic methods. Using comprehensive in-depth crash data, hospital data, police data and compensation systems data, they identify current and future safety concerns, with a particular interest in the links between injury, mental health and impairment due to alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription medication, and drowsiness.

With a strong focus on evaluation research, they provide evaluations of mental health leadership and psychological safety programs delivered by prominent insurers and program providers, and looking at the impact of all forms of impairment on road and workplace safety.

In 2025, the team's research and government inquiry submissions directly influenced a landmark safety mandate. Cited extensively by Vision Australia, the government inquiry submission led to the requirement for Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS) on all new-model electric and hybrid vehicles sold in Australia. This achievement underscores the team's ability to translate rigorous research into real-world outcomes that enhance national pedestrian safety.

The team's work on improving the safety of people who are blind or have low vision when using the road transport system continued with the award of a National Road Safety Grant to Dr Sara Liu with Vision Australia as a collaborative partner. This program will continue through to early 2027.

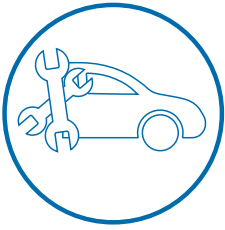
The team also continued its research into drugs and driving, including the management of drivers post-detection and the dealing with the new challenge of medical cannabis and driving. This work fed into various government working groups with a view of informing future government policy.

Their research was shared internationally, presenting at the International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) in Alcobaca, Portugal. Additionally, the team presented at the Road Safety in Five Continents Conference (RS5C) in Leeds UK, and at the Australian Road Safety Conference (ARSC) in Perth, Australia. In 2025, the team began collaborations with the Monash University Faculty of Law, evaluating the TAC Proactive Common Law program. Visiting PhD student Andrea Raimondi from the University of Florence, Italy joined MUARC for 6 months examining the potential role of technology in improving the safety of bicycle riders and other road users.

The team's collaborative reach in 2025 included partners such as Transurban, Vision Australia, the Victorian Department of Transport, Transport for NSW, the TAC, and the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

The Mental Health, Impairment and Injury team are experts at combining data-driven analysis with clinician-researcher insights. Their work bridges research and practice to improve safety outcomes, influence regulatory policy, and support better mental health and wellbeing in transport and workplace systems.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND VEHICLE SAFETY

USING MODELLING AND
STRATEGY EVALUATION
TO HELP ROAD SAFETY
STAKEHOLDERS
REDUCE FATAL AND
SERIOUS ROAD TRAUMA
ACROSS THE WORLD

Led by Associate Professor David Logan, the Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety team's engineering background provides a unique lens when researching the cornerstones of road safety: safe vehicles, safe roads, and safe roadsides. Expertise includes road safety strategy modelling and development, road safety infrastructure, and light and heavy vehicle safety, including automated vehicles.

The team translates research into practice and collaborates extensively with government and industry partners. Contributing to key road safety strategies in Australia, the team's work builds upon the Safe System and Vision Zero road safety philosophies.

The team delivered several high-impact projects in 2025, most notably an ongoing partnership with the TAC Road Safety team to conduct 16 additional in-depth fatal crash investigations. As part of the Safe System Crash Investigation Program pilot, a total of 20 cases were presented to panels comprising Victorian road safety stakeholders and local government representatives. These sessions successfully increased awareness of how to apply and uphold the Safe System approach to fatal crashes involving all road user types on local government-administered roads in Victoria.

Internationally, the team continues to support Anglo American's procurement of safer light vehicles across operations in Africa and South America - regions where safety standards can be difficult to meet - helping protect workers and raise awareness of safer vehicle technologies. During 2025, a comprehensive list of light vehicle safety ratings was developed, including a selection of five-star vehicles to help guide the purchase and use of the safest vehicles in the global fleet.

The team is a frequent collaborator with other MUARC research teams, sharing their engineering expertise to a diverse range of safety and injury prevention projects, and with Monash University colleagues. A standout collaboration with MUARC's Emergency Services Research team investigated risks to rural fire fighting vehicles from falling trees and limbs in NSW, resulting in the development of a tailored vehicle rollover and falling object performance testing program. The team helped design the test protocols and supervised the testing of vehicles.

Their work was supported by diverse funding sources, including TAC, Anglo American, ACIL Allen, and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts of Australia.

Dr Iniya Arularasu completed her PhD in autonomous vehicles, after which she has continued to work with MUARC as part of the Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety team.

In 2026, the team is focused on delivering a national strategy for the federal government, and has received a safer motorcycling grant to assist in improving safety for motorcyclists intersections.

The Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety team draws on research expertise in civil, mechanical and transport engineering to conduct world-class research working towards the elimination of death and serious injury on Australian roads through the provision of robust, evidence-based findings and implementation-focused research.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: RESEARCH



VICTORIAN INJURY SURVEILLANCE UNIT

PROVIDING ACCESS
TO QUALITY INJURY
SURVEILLANCE
DATA TO INFORM
POLICY, STIMULATE
RESEARCH AND
EVALUATE PREVENTION
STRATEGIES

Led by Associate Professor Janneke Berecki-Gisolf, the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) has been analysing, interpreting and disseminating Victorian data on injury deaths, hospital admissions and emergency department presentations across the state, nationally and internationally for more than 25 years.

VISU's Injury surveillance data are recorded on three datasets:

- Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Department of Justice Cause of Death Unit Record File (COD URF-Deaths)
- Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED: hospital admissions), and
- Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD: Emergency Department presentations); VAED and VEMD provided by the Victorian Department of Health

VISU extracts and analyses injury surveillance data, providing critical insights to organisations including all levels of government, health bodies, researchers, industry, and the media. This data underpins government policy and stimulates research to develop and evaluate prevention strategies. These outcomes include community education, legislative reform, and safety improvements in environmental and product design.

Hazard is a publication produced by VISU since 1988. A cornerstone of the team's work, it explores major and emerging issues in injury prevention. Hazard presents data on injury causes, severity, trends and risk factors, complemented by expert commentary and evidence-based prevention recommendations. In 2025, Hazard Edition 94 was published, investigating unintentional injuries among Victorian women across the adult lifespan.

The team's impact in 2025 continues with strong and consistent media interest and coverage, primarily reactive in both national and state media, receiving a reach of 82.4m over the year. Hazard 93 on e-micromobility was referenced numerous times in a report from the WA government into an inquiry on electric mobility device safety, released in December.

In 2025, the team released two e-bulletins,

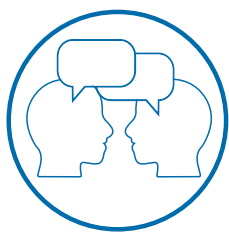
focusing on cause of death and hospital admissions. Drafting commenced for the 2026 e-bulletin, and the team is working toward an interactive web report version of the e-bulletins. The team has contributed to emergency department injury data quality feedback reports, and has prepared these for up to 41 public hospital campuses statewide, and a new narrative data quality methodology was developed.

The team contributes to knowledge exchange through attendance and presentations, including the Rural and Remote Health Science Scientific Symposium, regular presentations at the VISU - Victorian Department of Health Advisory Committee, at the Royal Children's Hospital Grant Round, and participate in national and cross-jurisdictional injury prevention and surveillance expert groups and advisory committees.

Funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health, the team continues to deliver high-quality, impactful research that shapes injury prevention efforts in Victoria and beyond. Additional injury prevention stakeholders, partners and data requesting organisations include Worksafe Victoria, Victoria Police, Energy Safe Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, the Department of Transport and Planning, Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Coroner's Court.

The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit skills and expertise includes biostatistics, epidemiology, medicine, psychology, and abundant hands-on experience and expertise related to the ICD-10-AM, statistical software including STATA, SAS and SPSS syntax, data management and health data analysis and interpretation. Team members hold advisory and executive committee positions including Worksafe Agricultural Safety Reference Group, Safety Standards Australia, National Injury Surveillance Advisory Committee, Cross Jurisdictional Injury Group, ACCC Product Safety Consultative Committee, and Associate Professor Berecki-Gisolf holds the Secretary role in the AIPN Executive Committee.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: EDUCATION



EDUCATION

MUARC's education programs are designed to inspire and develop the next generation of injury prevention leaders and professionals. Delivered by an internationally renowned, multidisciplinary teaching team, MUARC offers both accredited education leading to a formal degree qualification and professional development courses tailored for government and industry. Through degree units or bespoke professional development, the Centre is committed to equipping participants with the knowledge, tools and confidence to drive meaningful change in injury prevention and safety.

ACCREDITED EDUCATION

Postgraduate Coursework units

The following units were offered to Monash University postgraduate students within the Faculty of Arts in 2025. This year both units were revised to improve their design and delivery.

APG5140 - Principles and practices for disaster management, humanitarian action and climate change adaptation

Led by Associate Professor Jonathan Abrahams, this unit adopted multi-faceted approaches to the study of the diverse risks and impacts of all types of disasters and humanitarian crises including those associated with climate change, natural, technological and societal hazards, conflicts, and epidemics and pandemics.

APG5619 - Community resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Led by Associate Professor Jonathan Abrahams, this unit enabled students to explore the context for the causes and determinants of disaster risk and events, the diversity of communities and how disasters actually, or potentially, threaten the social, economic, environmental, cultural and political status of communities, including the health, lives and livelihoods of people who are disproportionately affected.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

MUARC works with industry and government to design and deliver customised learning experiences that reflect the unique challenges and needs of different workforces. With a shared commitment to preventing serious injury and improving wellbeing, MUARC's professional education programs provide practical, relevant and research-informed learning to support lasting impact.

Road Safety Management Leadership Program

MUARC delivered its reimagined Road Safety Management Leadership Program, launched as a new blended format that combined an online learning journey with an immersive in-person Masterclass in March 2025. Developed in partnership with Monash Business School, the program supported 21 senior leaders in tackling road safety challenges through integrated training in management, safety science, and leadership.

Reducing Aggressive Driving Program eLearning course

The first round of enrolments for the newly-created Reducing Aggressive Driving (RAD) Program eLearning courses commenced in late 2025. Designed for individual participants from the community and those who drive for work, the program actively helps participants recognise and manage anger and aggression behind the wheel, identify personal triggers, and adopt strategies to support safer driving outcomes - contributing to both road safety and workforce wellbeing.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: GRADUATE RESEARCH



GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING

The graduate research program continued to provide a vibrant research environment for MUARC's PhD, Masters, Honours and vacation students in 2025. Our graduate students undertake transformative and interdisciplinary research that is at the forefront of finding sustainable, social, economic, environmental and technical solutions to preventing injury. Studying at MUARC provides students the opportunity to learn from the world's leading injury prevention researchers.

MUARC's graduate research program is coordinated by Professor Jennie Oxley and Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel. The administration of the program and ongoing student support is provided by Ms Samantha Bailey. Together, the team has nurtured MUARC students through their graduate research journey for more than a decade.

MUARC offers three prestigious PhD scholarships, named in honour of former MUARC pioneering road safety researchers: Professor Peter Vulcan AM, Dr John Lane; and Professor Tom Triggs. Valued at \$40,000 per annum for the duration of the PhD, the scholarships are awarded to the top domestic student applicants in the injury prevention and safety science field.

MUARC also welcomes international PhD students to study with us, with joint PhD opportunities through the Monash-IITB India program, joint projects with Monash University Malaysia's GEMS program, and visiting students from partner universities.

In 2025, MUARC welcomed seven new PhD students to our graduate research program: Christopher Ainsworth, Mohammed Ali, Salsabila Arista, James Armstrong, Imogen Brown, Olivia Crivari and Jiaxin Lu. Coming to MUARC from Australia and internationally, each brings their experience and passion to their unique research projects. We were also fortunate to host visiting PhD students Andrea Raimondi (Italy), Hengyan Pan (China), and Karamjeet Sarna (IITB).

PhD students

- 20 MUARC-ENROLLED PHD STUDENTS
- 14 DOMESTIC
- 6 INTERNATIONAL
- 4 MUARC CO-SUPERVISED PHD STUDENTS
- 3 VISITING PHD STUDENTS

MUARC-enrolled PhD completions

Arzhaginiyal (Iniya) Arularasu - Building a dynamic systems model to explore the potential road safety benefits of Conditional, High and Full Driving Automation in light vehicles in Victoria

Suresh Pokharel - Urbanisation, risks and vulnerabilities and urban resilience: A study of the journey of resilience building of Kathmandu

MUARC co-supervised PhD completions

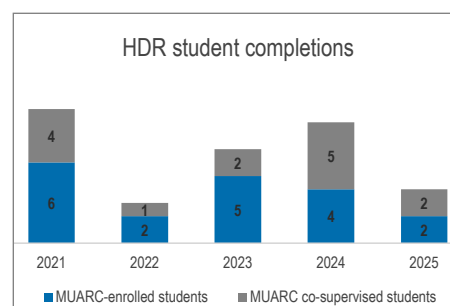
Briohny Kennedy - Assault-related death and homicide in community-dwelling older Australians: a descriptive epidemiological study

Emily Sarah Fitzgerald - Sleep Quality and 24-Hour Rest-Activity Patterns via Actigraphy in Premanifest Huntington's Disease: Relationship with Cognitive Function and Disease Severity

Coursework research students

MUARC also supports coursework students to experience academic research and collaboration with industry through a range of research programs. Coordinated by Dr Amanda Stephens, the program welcomed 16 students across the year, who had the opportunity to work closely with, and be supported by, our research staff. We are particularly proud of our four psychology honours students completing with great results: Bryn Smith, Diva Bhatia, Bridget Harland and Mahmood Humam.

- 4 HONOURS STUDENTS
- 1 PSYCHOLOGY INTERN
- 1 INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE INTERN
- 10 VACATION RESEARCH PROGRAM STUDENTS



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Simulation facilities

MUARC has a long history of undertaking cutting-edge projects using a unique range of driving simulators, and possesses a STISIM 100WS driving simulator, and full car, truck, motorbike, and bicycle vehicle simulators with technology to measure driver physiology and behavioural responses and utilises sophisticated eye tracking devices.

The MUARC simulation facilities include usability laboratories, rest room, ventilated study room for use in a range of studies addressing driver impairment, and participant debriefing areas.

Simulator projects range from evaluating infrastructure design, vehicle automation, and in-vehicle technologies to driver responses to ageing and medical conditions, fatigue and distraction. The Centre also has a portable low fidelity simulator for offsite testing.

In 2025, the MUARC simulator facilities were used for a number of studies including: a National Road Safety Action Grant investigating successful implementation of automated vehicles in high-risk drivers using a human factors approach; and a study supporting the safe mobility of drivers with dementia through innovative in-vehicle monitoring and driver assist systems.

Large dataset expertise

MUARC specialises in analysing, linking, and drawing meaningful insights from large, complex datasets, including hospital, insurance, crash, and licensing data. We are experienced in handling sensitive information with rigorous data protection procedures to ensure security and confidentiality. Additionally, all research involving human participants undergoes ethical review and approval by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee.

The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) maintains and analyses **injury surveillance datasets** that support injury prevention research, policy, and practice across Victoria. Core datasets include the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED; hospital admissions) and the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD; emergency department presentations) provided by the Victorian Department of Health, and the Australian Coordinating Registry Cause of Death (ACR-COD). This infrastructure underpins the Injury Atlas of Victoria, a free online tool developed by VISU that enables users to explore Victorian unintentional injury hospital admissions data from 2010/11 onwards. Using de-identified VAED data dedicated atlases are available for transport injury, sports injury, falls injury, and overall unintentional injury, with users able to filter data by demographics, geographic region, and injury characteristics.

The **Enhanced Crash Investigation Study (ECIS)** collected nearly 1900 points of data on 400 vehicle crashes. This information was used as the basis for determining the factors that contributed to the crash occurring, and understanding how injuries occur. The full ECIS database contains 3460 variables, including crash reconstruction analysis, detailed injury information and health data, and safety countermeasures for each identified crash contributing factor and injury causation risk factor.

Through MUARC's Vehicle Safety Research Group (VSRG), a database of **Australian and New Zealand road crash data** dating back to 1987 is maintained. The data is used to produce the flagship Used Car Safety Ratings, a prominent source of vehicle safety information for the used car market, complementing ANCAP's new vehicle ratings. The dataset is updated annually and currently contains data on 9.4 million vehicles and around 2.6 million injured road users involved in police-reported road crashes across Australia and New Zealand. Through collaboration with Redbook, the crash data is linked with vehicle specification and technology fitment data. The rich data sources assembled and enhanced by MUARC, along with our staff expertise in data analysis, allows us to provide the most relevant and accurate safety ratings. VSRG also analyses past patterns, forecasts future trends, and investigates topics of interest, including: primary safety; the effectiveness of new vehicle technologies; and cross-sectional or longitudinal vehicle safety performance of the fleet.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Naturalistic Driving Study databases

MUARC is internationally recognised as a global leader in naturalistic driving study (NDS) methodology and analysis. Widely regarded as the ‘gold standard’ for understanding real-world driving behaviour, NDS enables the unobtrusive monitoring of drivers during routine trips and safety-critical events. MUARC leads and collaborates on four major NDS projects, contributing to one of the most comprehensive and diverse collections of naturalistic driving data globally. Each dataset offers unique insights into specific driver populations and key periods across the driving lifecycle.

Ozcandrive

A landmark eight-year longitudinal study examining the driving behaviour of older adults, conducted in collaboration with research partners in Canada and the United States (US). Funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Ozcandrive represents the most extensive naturalistic dataset globally focused on older drivers. The study provides critical evidence to support policy and practice aimed at promoting safe and sustainable mobility in later life.

Children in Cars study

A short-term international study exploring in-vehicle interactions between drivers and child occupants during two weeks of everyday driving. Conducted in collaboration with researchers from the US, Canada, and Sweden, and supported by an ARC Linkage Project, this study produced the only known dataset capturing naturalistic observations of drivers travelling with young children. The findings offer valuable insights into restraint use, driver distraction, and child passenger safety, informing the design of interventions, policy, and consumer products.

Australian Naturalistic Driving Study (ANDS)

One of the largest and most comprehensive naturalistic driving studies undertaken in Australia, ANDS involved four months of continuous data collection to capture real-world driving behaviours across diverse conditions and jurisdictions. The project was delivered in partnership with the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR), and the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q), and co-funded by the ARC (Linkage and LIEF schemes). Government collaborators included VicRoads, the TAC, the Centre for Road Safety (NSW), the Motor Accident Commission (SA), and the WA Office of Road Safety. ANDS provides a nationally representative dataset that enables detailed analysis of driver performance, risk factors, and behaviour across Australian states and territories - supporting evidence-based approaches to road safety policy and regulation.

Young Novice Australian Naturalistic Driving Study (YANDS)

A targeted study focusing on the high-risk initial months of independent driving among young novice drivers. Conducted in collaboration with UNSW, the Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, CARRS-Q, and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), and funded by the Road Safety Commission WA and the ARC, YANDS is the first Australian naturalistic driving dataset to capture real-world behaviour during the critical early licensure period. These findings provide essential evidence to inform the development of novice driver education, licensing policy, and enforcement strategies.

Quality assurance

MUARC is a certified research facility, and part of the Monash Quality Management System (QMS) that complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems.

At MUARC we believe that excellence and quality are paramount through all stages of research, industry engagement and collaborations. This certification enables the highest level of quality and confidence in the services we provide, ensuring user satisfaction and supporting research excellence. Monash University has developed a Quality Framework for implementation and maintenance of the QMS so that it is fully integrated into all working practices, and that it continually helps to improve the quality of our services as we fulfil our partners’ requirements.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS: ENTERPRISING



NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY, IT'S SIMPLY GOOD BUSINESS!



The National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP) offers a collaborative network to support Australian businesses in developing a positive road safety culture. It's about saving lives without the red tape. It supports organisations to reduce road trauma through knowledge-sharing, evidence-based strategies, and peer-to-peer learning. Today, over 150 partner organisations are part of NRSPP, including major brands such as BHP, Optus, Toll, Transurban and Nestlé. With a firm focus on practical resources, peer learning and sector-wide collaboration, the NRSPP continues to play a vital role in driving down work-related road trauma across Australia.

In 2025, the NRSPP achieved its 10+1 year milestone, and celebrated with the release of its new website, logo and updated partnership tier model. The Vehicle Safety Research Group (VSRG) website was updated to reflect the updated outputs from the longstanding research program.

Another key achievement was a new partnership with Safeteams to offer members and users a better way to run Toolbox Talks, providing safety content and inductions in a streamlined process. With 33 new Toolbox Talks packages added in 2025, the NRSPP now provides 85 packages within the platform. A further 13 of the most-downloaded Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talks were translated into simplified Chinese, Arabic and Punjabi, and will officially be released as part of Truck Week 2026.

The NRSPP released the NTARC 2025 Major Incident Investigation Report, which unpacked trends in heavy vehicle incidents across Australia. As part of the NRSPP's program of work, and delivered in partnership with MUARC and NTI, NTARC plays a critical role in advancing safety across three national priority areas. NTARC commenced the release of Australia's first nationally consistent heavy vehicle driver educational guidance on steep descents, which assists drivers in safely navigating the top 10 hills across the country. The release of the guidance for the South Eastern Freeway entrance into Adelaide received more than 20,000 views within three months.

The year's organisational road safety campaign, *It's Not Natural to Tailgate* encouraged drivers to reflect on their habits and better understand safe following distances in various road conditions. The campaign was grounded in evidence-based research, drawing from a wide range of relevant literature, and inspired by nature, the campaign highlighted how tailgating goes against the instinctive behaviours seen in the animal kingdom.

The NRSPP hosted 12 webinars over the year, with over 1500 registered attendees, showing the reach and impact of online offerings. Other highlights include supporting the development and release of the annual VSRG Used Car Safety Ratings, a key consumer guide for fleet and personal vehicle safety in Australia and New Zealand.

Collaboration remains central to the NRSPP's model - the Heavy Vehicle and Light Vehicle Toolbox Talk Working Groups brought together partners from some of the largest corporations in Australia, government, local councils, and the energy sector. The NRSPP is included in the Grey Fleet Working Group and the Retail and Grocery Safety Forum (run in partnership with EY), and the Utilities forum in Sydney, and uniting stakeholders from banking, healthcare, and supermarkets across Australia and New Zealand.

NRSPP's core funding comes from five public sector organisations across Australia that are involved in transport safety and road regulation. Special project funding comes from Commonwealth grants and Australian organisations as well as generous in-kind support from its broad network of industry partners.

Led by Director Jerome Carslake, an expert in workplace road safety and program delivery, the NRSPP is a small, nimble, and agile team. Ensuring strong ties to the rigours of its university partnership, the Program is overseen by Academic Lead, Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel. While the program includes organisations that may otherwise be competitors, partners recognise that sharing knowledge and insights can improve safety outcomes across the industry. Road safety is simply good business - it pays its way in the long term.

106 INFORMATIVE INSTAGRAM POSTS

17 NRSPP YOUTUBE VIDEOS

9 QUICK FACT SHEETS

33 NEW TOOLBOX TALKS

5 CASE STUDIES

7 BLOGS

12 WEBINARS

1 ORGANISATIONAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: CULTURE

MUARC Wellbeing Committee

Led by Wellbeing Champion, Samantha Bailey, MUARC's Wellbeing Committee members volunteer their time to organise initiatives to promote staff and student wellbeing and foster a supportive and inclusive environment within our building. With over twenty social events throughout the year and weekly connection events, we are proud to share a few highlights from 2025:

R U OK? Day morning tea - this yearly event brings the team together for a mid-morning coffee catch up, to sit around the table, check in on each other and start meaningful conversations about mental health and wellbeing.

Breast cancer awareness month afternoon tea - this event was hosted at the mid-point of breast cancer awareness month, and included a hamper raffle, raising money to support breast cancer research. From the event, \$884 was raised, with funds being donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

MUARC Game Show - MUARC staff and students worked together in teams to battle-it-out in the Uplift Events' Game Show – a high-energy, laugh-out-loud event that brought together the best game shows, all in one.

MUARC Wellbeing Committee 2025:

Angelo D'Elia, Casey Rampollard, Ellana Christakakis, Fletcher Howell, Jess Fimmel, Samantha Bailey, Sheetal Pillai

MUARC Sustainability Committee

Led by Jasmine Proud, MUARC's sustainability committee has a proud history of active engagement with environmental initiatives within MUARC and as part of the broader University. In 2025, MUARC's Sustainability team achieved the Diamond Accreditation in the Monash University Green Impact program. This recognition reflects the collective efforts of our staff and students to implement practical, positive changes within the workplace and at home that reduce our environmental impact - from energy conservation and waste reduction strategies to sustainable purchasing and community engagement.

MUARC Sustainability Committee 2025:

Jasmine Proud, Runzhe Gao, Brendan Lawrence, Christine Mulvihill, Angelo D'Elia, Fletcher Howell, Hayley McDonald, Jess Fimmel, Kristie Young, Samantha Bailey, Sjaan Koppel, Trevor Allen

MUARC Health, Safety, Wellbeing & Environment (HSWE) Committee

Led by Chair, Associate Professor David Logan, the committee plays an important role in promoting and facilitating cooperation between staff, students and management in the formulation and implementation of occupational health, safety and wellbeing procedures and programs within MUARC. Members ensure a best practice and continuous improvement approach is adopted by the Centre, and the committee facilitates the annual staff and student consultative forums to ensure the needs of our entire community are addressed.

MUARC HSWE Committee 2025:

David Logan, Angelo D'Elia, Casey Rampollard, Jasmine Proud, Lerdmanus (Wave) Bumrungrsup, Margaret Rendell (Monash University OHS), Samantha Bailey, Sheetal Pillai, Stuart Newstead

MUARC Visiting Academic Seminar Series

Throughout the year MUARC welcomes academics and industry professionals to visit our Centre and share their knowledge and experiences with our staff and students. We would like to thank the following people for their talks in 2025:

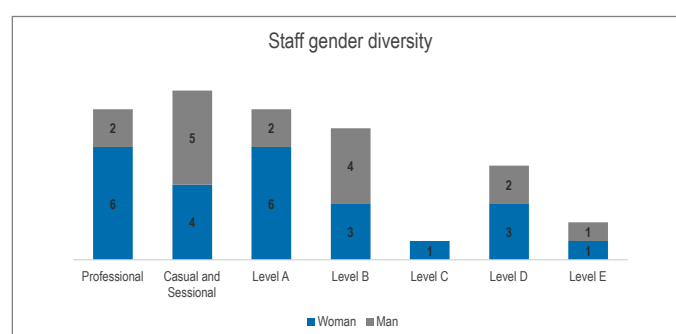
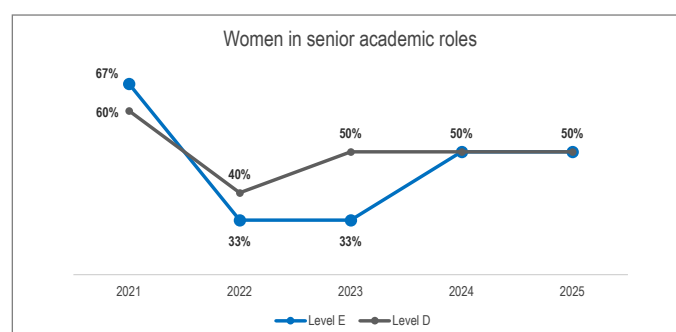
- Professor Stacy Clemes
Loughborough University (UK)
- Professor Ashleigh Filtress
Loughborough University (UK)
- Professor Nicole van Nes
Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)

MUARC Early Career Research (ECR) network

Dr Hayley McDonald coordinates the MUARC ECR network to support and develop our newest academic researchers. Each year the network distributes professional development opportunities, provides networking opportunities and facilitates senior researcher mentoring.

Gender diversity

MUARC continues to foster a diverse and inclusive workplace, with strong representation of women across the Centre, including in senior academic roles. These outcomes reflect our commitment to attracting, developing and supporting talented people at all career stages.



OUR PEOPLE

STAFF TEAM

As at March 2026

Research Team Leads

Assoc Prof Carlyn Muir
Assoc Prof David Logan
Assoc Prof Janneke Berecki-Gisolf
Professor Jennie Oxley
Assoc Prof Michael Fitzharris
Assoc Prof Sjaan Koppel
Professor Stuart Newstead

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Amanda Stephens

Research Fellows

Dr Adriana Keating
Dr Angela Batson
Dr Angelo D'Elia
Dr Brendan Lawrence
Ms Casey Rampollard
Ms Christine Mulvihill
Dr Hayley McDonald
Dr Iniya Arularasu
Dr Jasmine Proud
Dr Jason Kearney
Mr Kishan Gupta
Dr Le Pham
Ms Rachel Crotty
Ms Runzhe Gao
Dr Sara Liu
Dr Trevor Allen
Dr Xin Zou

Research and Teaching Staff

Mr David Oeng
Dr Himal Singh
Dr Jane Hayman
Ms Kimi Sana
Mr Mahmood Humam
Mr Paul Cull
Mr Peter Grzic
Ms Vandana Bairam
Mr Wave Bumrungrsup

Centre Support Staff

Ms Ellana Christakakis
Ms Jess Fimmel
Ms Peggy Hum-Teo
Ms Samantha Bailey
Ms Sheetal Pillai

NRSPP

Mr Jerome Carslake
Ms Abbey Jarvis
Ms Holly Toop
Mr Adam Gibson, *NTARC partner*

Emeriti

Professor Brian Fildes
Professor Claes Tingvall
Professor Francis Archer
Professor Judith Charlton
Professor Maxwell Cameron

Adjuncts

Professor Clare Anderson
Dr Ben Beccari
Dr Deanne Bird
Dr Suzanne Cross
Dr Joseph Cuthbertson
Mr William Leonard
Professor Astrid Linder
Dr Gavan Lintern
Associate Professor Andrew McIntosh
Dr Steve O'Hern
Dr Debra Parkinson
Dr Kamarah Pooley
Dr Fiona Roberts
Dr Dianne Sheppard
Dr Karen Stephan
Dr Renee St Louis
Professor Peter Vulcan

STEERING COUNCIL 2025

Professor Melissa Miles
Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
(Chair to April 2025)

Professor Mike Ryan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
(Chair from April 2025)

Professor Stuart Newstead
Director, MUARC

Professor Tony Capon
Director, Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI)

Professor James Whisstock
Deputy Dean Research, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Ms Holly Cooper
Deputy Director, Government Relations

CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP 2025

Professor Stuart Newstead

Director MUARC, Associate Director Injury Analysis and Data

Professor Jennie Oxley

Deputy Director MUARC, ADGR, Associate Director Human Factors and Sustainable Safety

Assoc Prof Carlyn Muir

Associate Director Emergency Services Research, Associate Director Education

Assoc Prof David Logan

Associate Director Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety

Assoc Prof Janneke Berecki-Gisolf

Director Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit

Assoc Prof Jonathan Abrahams

Director Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative

Assoc Prof Michael Fitzharris

Associate Director Mental Health, Impairment and Injury

Assoc Prof Sjaan Koppel

Associate Director Behavioural Science

Ms Jess Fimmel

Operations Manager

Ms Peggy Hum-Teo

Senior Research and Finance Coordinator

MSDI Chief Operations Officer

Ms Michelle Armstrong (to April 2025)
Ms Lisa Hutton (to December 2025)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

MUARC AWARDS

2025 Peter Vulcan Best Paper Award - Researcher

Dr Amanda Stephens - *Multigroup invariance of measure for angry drivers (MAD) scale using a representative sample of drivers in Australia*, Journal of Safety Research.

Co-authors: Rachel Crotty, Steven Trawley, Jennifer Oxley

2025 Peter Vulcan Best Paper Award - Student

Christine Mulvihill - *To what extent has a systems thinking approach been applied to understand motor vehicle crashes involving ambulances? A systematic review of risk factors and characteristics*, Safety Science.

Co-authors: Carlyn Muir, Stuart Newstead, Robert Jaske, Paul Salmon

2025 MUARC Professional Staff Excellence Award

Peggy Hum-Teo, Senior Research and Finance Coordinator
For exceptional patience, support, and guidance in helping colleagues navigate MUARC's research systems and processes with confidence.

MUARC Seeding Grant

Dr Amanda Stephens - *Emotion in the Loop: Awareness, Trust, and Safety in Shared Mobility.*

This grant is designed to support the development of high-quality applications to nationally and internationally competitive granting schemes.

MONASH UNIVERSITY AWARDS

25 Years Service Award

Associate Professor David Logan -
Monash 25 Year Service Award

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Engagement and Impact - shortlisted

Vehicle Safety Research Group -
Professor Stuart Newstead, Dr Angelo D'Elia,
Ms Casey Rampollard, Professor Emeritus Max Cameron

INDUSTRY AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 ACRS Fellowship

Professor Stuart Newstead

The prestigious fellowship recognises individuals who have made outstanding and inspiring contributions to road safety through practice and research.

2025 Kidsafe Victoria Champion Award

Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel

This award recognises Sjaan's longstanding contribution to child occupant protection.

President of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM)

Associate Professor Sjaan Koppel was named President of the AAAM, a globally recognised authority dedicated to eliminating road traffic injuries through scientific research, education, and policy. As the first behavioural scientist to lead the organisation, Associate Professor Koppel's appointment marks a significant milestone for AAAM and the broader road safety community

Illis quorum

Emeritus Professor Claes Tingvall

The royal medal is awarded by the Government of Sweden for outstanding contributions to Swedish culture, science or society. It is the highest award that can be conferred upon an individual Swedish citizen, and was awarded for Claes' contributions to road safety.

JOINING THE SUB-FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

In 1987, the Victorian Government and Monash University partnered to establish a research centre dedicated to improving road safety in Victoria. Thirty-eight years later, our multidisciplinary research Centre continues to advance injury prevention across Victoria and the broader Australian and global community. Throughout this time, MUARC has operated within the University's central Research portfolio alongside the Faculty structure.

In 2025, it was decided that MUARC's graduate research, education and research activities could be strengthened through integration into a Faculty.

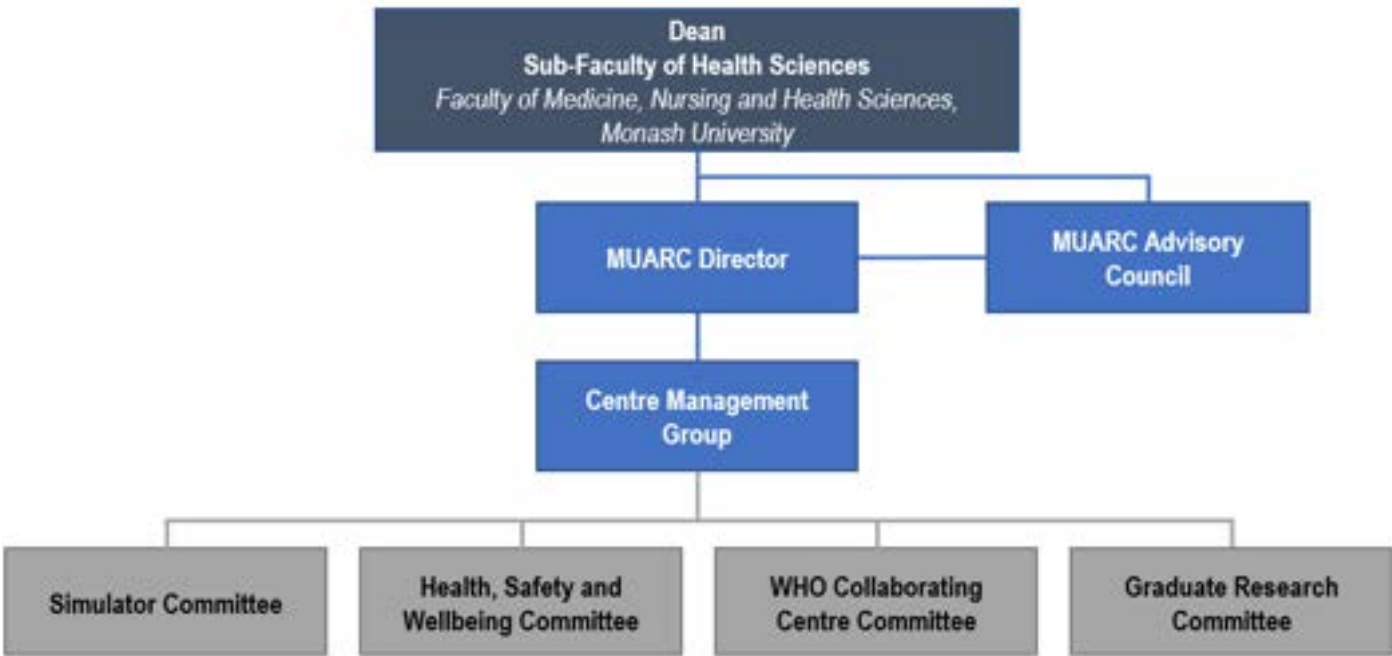
With the support of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), MUARC identified the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (MNHS) as the ideal home to support its research strengths and expand academic collaboration opportunities.

This transition creates significant opportunities for 2026 and beyond, including expanded accredited teaching offerings, increased research collaboration, and enhanced support through the Faculty's research and education portfolios. Under the new operating environment, MUARC will develop an aligned strategic plan to build on its strengths while contributing to the Faculty's broader objectives.

Within MNHS, the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences focuses on improving community health outcomes and enhancing healthcare practice and systems. Strong alignment between MUARC's injury prevention and translational research and the work of the schools within the Sub-Faculty provides a solid foundation for integration from 1 January 2026.

The new Faculty arrangement will see MUARC report to the Dean of the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences and include changes to its governance structure, including the disestablishment of the Steering Council and the establishment of an Advisory Council to provide expert advice and strategic guidance to the Centre.

2026 GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING STRUCTURE



THE SUB-FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The **Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (MNHS)** is one of the largest and most influential health education providers in the country. It is embedded in an ecosystem of health, academia and industry, delivering the research outcomes, skilled workforce, technology and partnerships needed to improve human health locally and globally.

MNHS is a research-intensive faculty that improves human health and wellbeing by significantly advancing the knowledge of humankind and educating future practitioners and researchers. The Faculty has a global network of over 64,000 Alumni across 130 countries, 10,000+ undergraduate students, 6,400+ postgraduate coursework students, 1500+ graduate research students and generated \$394.5 Million in research income in 2023.

The **Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences** is one of four sub-faculties within MNHS. Its mission is to build an equitable and sustainable health, disability and aged care workforce for the future, in close partnership with professional bodies, teaching hospitals and health services across Victoria, and with Monash's offshore campuses internationally. The focus is on innovative and excellent education and impactful research that improves healthcare training, healthcare practice and healthcare outcomes.

The sub-faculty brings together the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Primary and Allied Health Care, and Rural Health. Together, these schools lead the research and development of new practices and models of care, working to improve community health outcomes and service delivery equity across metropolitan, regional and rural Australia.

The **Monash Nursing and Midwifery (MNM) School** is one of the largest schools for the education of nurses and midwives in Australia, offering a range of undergraduate and graduate courses and specialisations across two Monash campuses - Clayton and Peninsula.

Courses are developed in collaboration with professional partners, health services and consumers to ensure they're relevant, and responsive with the evolving needs of healthcare, those receiving care, and engaging for students.

MNM's research spans the full spectrum of health and care, driving innovation and improving outcomes across the lifespan. Through strong working relationships and formal research collaborations, they're shaping the future of healthcare.

The **School of Primary and Allied Health Care (SPAHC)** aims to be Australia's leading centre of primary and allied health care education and research, building on existing strengths in its health professional disciplines by integrating new research areas, including: rehabilitation, addiction and family violence. The School provides high quality primary care programs at undergraduate and graduate entry levels, specialised professional graduate coursework programs and higher degrees by research. The School currently undertakes education and research in the following discipline areas: Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, Paramedicine, Podiatry, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology and Social Work.

The **Monash Rural Health (MRH) School** is Australia's oldest and largest rural clinical school. MRH is a multi-site school with eight clinical teaching and research sites and connections to more than 25 communities across their footprint. The School partners with regional healthcare providers and many teaching staff also hold dual clinical appointments. MRH supports research into rural health workforce development and training strategies, rural health service delivery models, and in improving health outcomes for rural communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It is within this eco-system that MUARC will sit, adjacent to these Schools. MUARC's mission to prevent injury and improve safety speaks directly to the Sub-Faculty's broader focus on health and wellbeing, and its multidisciplinary, translational approach to research mirrors the collaborative model shared across the Sub-Faculty's schools.

As MUARC begins this next chapter, it does so alongside a Faculty whose scale, reach and reputation strengthen the Centre's own capacity to prevent injury and improve safety, locally and globally.

THE YEAR AHEAD

Looking ahead to 2026, MUARC's research teams will continue to drive innovation and impact across a wide range of road safety and injury prevention priorities. New collaborations will be forged with our sister schools within the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences and we'll benefit from the enhanced support from the broader Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences teams.

Behavioural Science

The Behavioural Science team continues to deliver high-impact research across a range of road safety priorities, including driver fatigue, technology use, vulnerable road users, workplace road safety and public safety behaviours. Current work includes a national study on fatigue among new parents, with findings to be presented at the Australasian Road Safety Conference (ARSC) in October. The team is also collaborating with The George Institute, the University of Melbourne, Griffith University, the Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, and Queensland University of Technology on a range of projects to inform evidence-based policy and practice.

Emergency Services Research

The Emergency Services Research team will enhance its research portfolio, with a new team name of System Safety and Performance incorporating the research areas of: Emergency Services; Disaster Resilience; and Emotions, Cognition and Performance. Projects will include investigations into fatigue, fire services performance, emergency vehicle selection, and police enforcement.

Human Factors and Sustainable Safety

The Human Factors and Sustainable Safety team will be focused on delivering a review of the Queensland Learner Driver Program in partnership with the TAC, looking at the implications of lowering the minimum licensing age in the state. The team will also deliver research on motorcycle injury prevention and safety, and will continue research using simulator-based and naturalistic driving studies to assess a framework for drivers with dementia.

Injury Analysis and Data

The Injury Analysis and Data team is progressing to the next phase of the evaluation of Queensland's camera detected offence program, to assist in the ongoing management and future development of program operations. The team will also deliver the updated Used Car Safety Ratings for 2026, and will deliver an evaluation of NSW automated enforcement programs.

Mental Health, Impairment and Injury

The Mental Health, Impairment and Injury team will present at the International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV) on the benefits of camera-based Driver Monitoring Systems in preventing road crashes. The team is continuing to advise governments on managing drug driving, with a particular focus on medical cannabis. Work on the safety of people who are blind or have low vision will continue, as will its research on key aspects of managing the post-crash phase. The team will also complete an evaluation of the TAC Common Law Program in collaboration with the Faculty of Law.

Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety

The Traffic Engineering and Vehicle Safety team will collaborate with the Behavioural Science team on a horizon-scanning initiative to identify emerging trends, risks, and opportunities likely to shape the future road safety landscape in Victoria. The team is also working on a project investigating the potential benefits of driver and rider assistance systems to reduce motorcycle serious crashes at intersections, and assisting the NSW and Federal governments with updates to their 2035 road safety strategies.

Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit

The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit will publish a new edition of Hazard focusing on injuries in males presenting to hospital, alongside the release of the Cost of Injury report. Additionally, the team is undertaking a website refresh for the Injury Atlas and transitioning the e-bulletin series to an interactive online format.

National Road Safety Partnership Program

The National Road Safety Partnership Program aims to expand its reach and membership through enhanced partnership models for industry and government partners. They will also release their 13 newly-translated Heavy Vehicle Toolbox Talks, planned to coincide with Truck Week 2026, as well as an organisational campaign on driving to the weather conditions.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US IN 2026

Want to meet our researchers and hear about their latest results?

You can find them presenting at these academic conferences in 2026.

Education

MUARC's Education portfolio will be exploring diversification of offerings in both the accredited education and professional education spaces. The Centre will draw on the multidisciplinary expertise of its staff to explore opportunities to enhance student learning in injury prevention and safety management.

Graduate Research

The Graduate Research program will welcome new domestic and international PhD students and transition our operations to fit the new Faculty environment. The team will continue to provide opportunities for coursework students from across the University to experience academic research and industry collaboration.

Centre-wide

Across the Centre, MUARC will proactively seek new collaboration opportunities with researchers from the Sub-Faculty, broader Faculty, and University. This will include identifying shared research priorities, brokering connections between teams, supporting the co-development of interdisciplinary projects, and providing student-supervision opportunities. MUARC will also renew its strategic plan, ensuring it aligns to Faculty and University priorities while shaping a path for the Centre's future that is both financially and operationally sustainable.

Key to the success of MUARC's transition into the Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences is a shared conviction that MUARC's core identity, as a rigorous, multidisciplinary, applied, mission-driven centre, is not only preserved by the new home, but strengthened by it.

Being part of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences affirms MUARC's commitment to health and wellbeing as a defining lens through which safety science is understood and practiced. It brings new colleagues, new students and new partners into MUARC's orbit, and positions the Centre to pursue its vision of an injury-free society with renewed momentum and reach.

8th International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD) International Conference

15-17 April 2026, Athens, Greece

28th International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV)

12-15 May 2026, Toronto Canada

23rd IAGG World Congress of Gerontology And Geriatrics

5-8 July 2026, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP)

21-25 July 2026, Florence, Italy

Safety 2026

16th World Conference on Injury Prevention

1-4 September 2026, Cape Town, South Africa

8th International Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference (LEPH2026)

6-9 September 2026, Leeds, UK

SAFER Child occupant protection: Latest knowledge and future opportunities

16 September 2026, Gothenburg, Sweden

AAAM's 70th Annual Scientific Conference

20-23 October, La Ribera de Belén, Costa Rica

2026 Australasian Road Safety Conference

29-26 October 2026, Sydney, Australia

The International Conference on the Protection of Children in Cars

2-4 December 2026, Munich, Germany

Sign-up to one of our MUARC Insight webinars, designed for academics, stakeholders and community members to learn more about our work. If you miss one of our Insight seminars, you can access all seminars and latest reports from our online repository at:
<https://bridges.monash.edu/muarc>

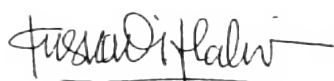
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	\$000's	\$000's
INCOME			
Research			
Australian Research Council		-	
Commonwealth Government - Others		1,322	
State and Local Government		4,809	
Competitive Non Commonwealth		-	
Industry Australia		795	
Industry International		(562)	
Total Research			6,364
Commonwealth Government Research Support Program			843
Commercial			264
Other income			896
Monash contribution	1		2,903
Total Income			11,269
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and Related Expenditure		5,746	
Financial and Administration	2	47	
Student Related		251	
Infrastructure Related		80	
Central Support Services – Overhead Costs	1	2,749	
Other Operating Expenditure		1,433	
Total Expenditure			10,306
NET BALANCE FOR THE YEAR			963
REVISED OPENING BALANCE AS AT 01 JANUARY 2025			8,041
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025			9,005

Notes:

1. The University has provided a transfer of funds to cover the Central Support Services - Overhead Costs
2. Includes payments to consultants
3. Transactions in the MUARC Interest Fund totalled -\$183,734.56, including \$40,000 for the John Lane Scholarship and returns of \$31,272.31 and \$21,454.99 representing surpluses accumulated from prior years in the Peter Vulcan and Tom Triggs scholarship accounts, respectively. The remaining \$196,461.86 was reinvested in the Common Fund (non-current asset), with interest supporting these three foundation funds.

The Institute's Statement of Income and Expenditure has been certified to be in accordance with the University's Accounting and Financial Reporting System by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice-President. Where required as a condition of funding grants, accounts will be audited by independent external auditors. The Institute's accounts have been subjected to Government audit as part of the University's annual accounts for the calendar year 2025.



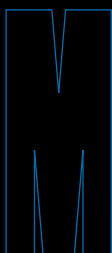
Robert Halim

Manager, Research and Revenue Accounting Services
Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice-President

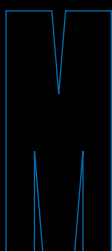


Professor Stuart Newstead

Director, Monash University Accident Research Centre



Learn about the full range of activities and research at MUARC.
See our latest projects and achievements.
<https://www.monash.edu/muarc>



Sign-up to our quarterly newsletter,
MUARC Insight.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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