

Herald Sun



FINALLY, FOOTY'S BACK

After 11 agonising football-free days, the Bulldogs kick off the finals action tonight against West Coast

SPORT



DOUBLE-SIDED POSTER INSIDE

Exclusive Plan for longer waits at crossings to help elderly

RED LIGHT STATE

MOTORISTS would be forced to wait several seconds longer at red lights, to allow elderly pedestrians extra time to cross, under a radical road safety plan.

Some speed limits would also be slashed to 30km/h under the Victorian plan to curb seniors' road deaths.

Give-way laws would also be overhauled to require drivers to give way not just to cars but also to pedestrians.

Under the plan, cars would be halted at every pedestrian crossing for at least

ALEKS DEVIC

three seconds longer than they are currently, and as many as seven seconds longer, depending on the width of the road.

The bold push, being spearheaded by pedestrian safety group Victoria Walks, follows research that has been supported by the Transport Accident Commission and VicHealth.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



ONE DAY. ONCE A YEAR. *zoom-zoom*
THIS SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

SEE YOUR LOCAL MAZDA DEALER FOR A GREAT M DAY DEAL

Visit mazda.com.au or call 1800 380 644 to find your local Mazda Dealer

This advertisement is a manufacturer's advertisement and vehicles must be bought from dealers. Private Buyers only. M Day offers not available with any other offer. Brand-New CX-9 is excluded from M Day sale.



Jacquie Brierty, from Avondale Heights, crosses at Flinders St. Picture: ALEX COPPEL

Drivers will see red to save seniors

FROM PAGE 1

Crash data on older pedestrians reveal an average of 17 deaths, 147 serious injuries and 114 other injuries each year, costing the state's economy \$110 million per annum.

Measures to improve safety for older pedestrians in the report include:

A BETTER connected footpath network to allow the elderly to walk away from traffic;

REDUCING speed limits, more 40km/h zones, and allowing councils to apply for 30km/h speed zones;

CHANGING the give way rule so drivers must give way to pedestrians unless on an

unrestricted through movement;

RAISED pedestrian crossings at intersections and roundabouts to reduce car speeds;

IMPROVED footpath surfaces so they are non-slip and without cracks, to eliminate trip risks at kerbs;

INSTALLING automatically operated pedestrian signals;

REDESIGNING crossings so seniors can cross in stages;

CHANGING classifications of carparks to shared zones, giving pedestrians priority.

The report recommends crossings be redesigned to accommodate walking speeds of 0.9m per second rather

than the current design standard of 1.2m per second.

That would mean on a 10m wide crossing, the pedestrian lights would be activated for three seconds longer; on a 25m wide crossing, it would be seven seconds longer.

The report also suggested using sensor detection technology to adjust phasing of signals to respond to a slower pedestrian, so older people are not stranded in the middle of the road.

Victoria Walks executive officer Dr Ben Rossiter told the *Herald Sun*: "There needs to be a zero tolerance for drivers who block intersections,

don't give way to pedestrians, and drivers who speed."

He said the report should work as a long-term guide to improve pedestrian safety.

"Funding needs to be increased to make better infrastructure, to make roads safer. We really need to start protecting senior pedestrians because they are the most vulnerable of our road users," Dr Rossiter said.

A VicRoads spokeswoman said traffic signals operated on a programmed sequence to optimise the "walk" time for different road users.

"Altering pedestrian walk times reduces the flexibility

for the signals to be altered to manage traffic flow," the spokeswoman said.

TAC road safety acting senior manager Elizabeth Waller said that creating safer pedestrian environments was a priority.

The research revealed most older pedestrians were hit by right-turning motorists at intersections, mostly in 50 and 60km/h zones.

From 2004 to 2010, over-70s were 10 per cent of the population but accounted for 33 per cent of pedestrian fatalities.

aleks.devic@news.com.au
@AleksDevic