



## **NATIONAL MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargoed until 3 am, 21 November 2006**

### **Young drivers concerned about hangovers**

More than half of young Australian drivers (52%) have said they were concerned about being over the limit when driving the morning after a night of heavy drinking, according to independent research<sup>1</sup> in the *2006 AAMI Young Drivers Index*, released today.

This compares with less than one-third (31%) of other drivers who had concerns about still being over .05 and driving the morning after.

“Drink-driving is always a dangerous practice,” said AAMI Public Affairs Manager Geoff Hughes.

“For young drivers, the legal rights to drink alcohol and obtain a driver licence come into effect at a similar time – around 18 years of age. This means that young drivers generally take on two important and large responsibilities at the same time which, if not respected, can have lethal repercussions,” he said.

The research showed despite this, young drivers are less likely than others to drive when over .05 (38% of young people versus 43% of other drivers).

“The AAMI research shows that young drivers are more cautious than older drivers when it comes to drink-driving and they are less likely to have driven when over established legal limits,” said Mr Hughes.

#### **Is it fine to speed?**

More than half of young drivers believe that high speeding fines make the roads safer and they are more likely to hold this belief than other drivers (55% versus 48% of other drivers).

“On the one hand, young drivers are more likely to support speeding fines than other drivers, but they are also more likely to admit ignoring restricted speed limits, such as those on local, suburban roads, outside schools and for roadworks (25% versus 15% of other drivers),” said Mr Hughes.

#### **Do u tlk or txt n drve?**

Young drivers are twice as likely as others to admit they often use their mobile phone without a hands-free kit while driving (35% versus 16% of other drivers).

“Mobile phones have been in existence for sometime now, and the dangers of talking on a mobile phone while driving with a hands-free are well-publicised, so it is a concern that young people are failing to get the message,” said Mr Hughes.

#### **Ruling on the road**

Young drivers are more likely to support the learner driving instruction they receive: they are less likely than other drivers to believe the learner training new drivers get is almost worthless (33% versus 41%). This is a decrease from the 2005 AAMI Young Drivers Index, where 44% of young drivers said the training new drivers receive is almost worthless.

“In light of recent tragic accidents on Australian roads involving young drivers, there has been much discussion and debate surrounding road rules and laws that apply to probationary (P-plate) drivers.

“It is reassuring to learn that young drivers believe their driving education is worthwhile – in fact, most young drivers (83%) believe that it should be compulsory for all young drivers to complete a safe driving course,” said Mr Hughes.

---

#### **To arrange a media interview, contact:**

Geoff Hughes, AAMI Public Affairs Manager, ph 03 8520 1469 or 0413 483 591

Brian O’Neil, Public Relations Exchange, ph 03 9607 4500 or 0411 055 284

---

<sup>1</sup> The *2006 AAMI Young Drivers Index* is based on a survey of 2384 Australians conducted by Sweeney Research. National data includes all States and Territories except Western Australia, as AAMI does not operate there.