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Working Together: moving road safety into Local Government policy and practice.

Ruth Wernham

The Local Government Safe System Project (LGSSP) is an initiative from the WA Local Government Association (WALGA). Local Governments are key partners in creating a safe system for their communities. As designers and operators of an extensive road network, and as leaders and influencers in local communities, Local Governments are well placed to have a positive impact on road safety outcomes.

Methods:

Three Safe System Coordinator positions, funded by the Road Trauma Trust Fund, have been appointed to join the RoadWise team to establish the LGSSP. The first phase of the project will include communicating the benefits of the safe system approach; gathering information and data on the current situation on Local Government roads; working with the sector and partners to develop safe system 'good practice' principles; and establishing the challenges and opportunities for Local Government to embed safe system principles in policy and practice.

Results:

The LGSSP commenced in April 2009 and is still in its early stages. A significant effort has been put in to the planning and research that will underpin the project.

Conclusions:

WALGA has established the LGSSP to increase the uptake of safe system principles by Local Government, in a shared responsibility approach, to support the implementation of the Western Australian road safety strategy. As we move forward, it is anticipated that the project will provide new opportunities to work in partnership with the sector and road safety stakeholders to adopt and implement the safe system approach, and to reduce road trauma on Local Government managed roads.