



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Supersafe Initiative For Tasmania's Newest Drivers

Australia's fastest growing sport has once again claimed pole position with an innovative new driver education program aimed at the next generation of road users.

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, today launched the V8 Supersafe Road Safety and Young Driver Training Initiative in Tasmania with V8 Supercar greats Craig Lowndes and Mark Skaife.

"The Tasmanian Government commends V8 Supercars Australia for recognising it has a responsibility to educate young Tasmanians on road safety and driver training," Mr Parkinson said.

"Due to the nature of the sport – young people and fast cars – V8 Supercars Australia is uniquely positioned to capture the attention of our young people and promote and reinforce a positive road safety message.

"Targeting Grade 10, 11 and 12 students, the V8 Supersafe initiative will complement the road safety education program currently delivered to Grade 9 and 10 students through a partnership between the Departments of Education and Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

"This education-focussed program will highlight the importance of safety, positive choices and making the distinction between professional race car drivers and the everyday road user."

The program aims to increase awareness of the 'Fatal Four' killers – speed, fatigue, not wearing a seatbelt, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs – as well as the effects of inexperience, inattention and illegal road manoeuvres.

V8 Supersafe will feature three of V8 Supercars Australia's younger and high profile drivers – Craig Lowndes, Shane Price and Shane Van Gisbergen, who will deliver key messages via the dedicated schools program.

"Through V8 Supersafe, Australia's fastest growing sport aims to promote a safe driving message to the next generation in order to decrease the overwhelming death toll of young drivers," said Mr Parkinson.

"It's another example of how this Government is connecting the motorsport industry with the community in an ongoing effort to save young Tasmanian lives."

Further information: Sue Bailey 6233 2305