



Media release

Friday, 17 August

Selwyn drivers surveyed about distractions

The Selwyn District Road Safety Coordinator is conducting a survey to find out what distracts the district's drivers.

Selwyn District's Road Safety Coordinator Ngaire Tinning says driver distraction contributes to many crashes throughout New Zealand every year resulting in deaths or serious injuries.

"Talking on cellphones is one distraction that the Government has started to address. But there may well be other distractions. We can't do anything about those distractions until we know what they are. So we want people to take part in our survey to tell us. There won't be any penalties for being honest, it will just help us understand what the issues are," Mrs Tinning says.

Motor vehicle accidents recorded in Selwyn over the five years from 2007 to 2011 include 53 where there were injuries contributing to three fatalities, 30 with serious injuries, 60 with minor injuries and 95 non-injury accidents.

From 01 November 2009, it became illegal to text or talk on a handheld cellphone while driving, and anyone doing so risks an \$80 fine and 20 demerit points.

"The logic behind the law change is simple. Concentrating on driving while texting or engaged in a conversation is nearly impossible. If the telephone call or text is that urgent, it only takes a couple of minutes to pull over and talk to someone on the side of the road."

The survey can be completed online through the Selwyn District Council website, www.selwyn.govt.nz/distraction. Copies of the survey are available at all Council Library/Service centres or the survey form can be posted out.

The survey closes on 17 September and all participants can go into the draw for a \$100 MTA voucher.

As part of the campaign, scratch and win tickets will be distributed to encourage community participation. If you receive one of the free tickets, keep it and check for the numbers drawn each week in September. Results will be posted in the Road Safety column in the Council's advertising pages, "Council Call".

If you have questions about the campaign or would like a copy of the survey, contact Ngaire Tinning at Selwyn District Council, 347 2901.

Ends

For more information, contact Selwyn District Council Road Safety Coordinator Ngaire Tinning, 347 2901.