



Media Release

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## Driver Distraction survey

Selwyn District Council is inviting motorists to take part in a driver distraction survey.

Any activity that takes a driver's eyes off the road or hands from the wheel is considered to be a distraction.

"Other passengers or children can often distract drivers when in the car," says Selwyn District Council's Road Safety Coordinator Ngaire Tinning.

"Children can often fight or yell in cars causing the driver to turn around or be inattentive while at the wheel. For teen drivers other passengers in the car can be a distraction if they play loud music, become boisterous or encourage the driver to take unsafe risks."

Other distractions can include using a mobile phone or trying to do other activities like eating, drinking or changing the radio or music while driving.

"Using a mobile phone while driving was made illegal in 2009 and people can be fined and receive demerit points if they do this. Unfortunately this is still a visible problem and it is a serious cause of driver distraction," says Mrs Tinning.

The survey asks drivers to rate some passenger actions and the affect they have on them as the driver. It also aims to raise awareness of driver distraction and encourage people to think about what they can do as drivers and passengers to make journeys safer.

Every complete survey entry goes into a draw to win a \$100 MTA voucher. The survey closes on 24 November.

To complete the survey visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/distraction](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/distraction).

Ends

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