IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE

In the wake of an AAMI survey on road crashes showing that almost half of all Territorians don’t know how much alcohol they can legally consume before getting behind the wheel of a car, the Territory Opposition is calling for an alcohol driving awareness campaign.

“It’s disturbing that so many Territorians don’t know how many drinks in an hour gets them to the legal limit for driving and how many takes them past it,” says Fay Miller, Opposition Transport spokesperson.

“It’s little wonder that drink driving is such a serious problem in the Territory.

“The Martin Government can’t ignore such a startling level of ignorance amongst Territorian drivers about a leading cause of road fatalities.

“The Minister for Transport, Delia Lawrie, needs to get the wheels in motion immediately.

“An aggressive, targeted advertising campaign would increase general awareness regarding the law of drink driving, which in turn should reduce the incidence of drink driving.

“With the Territory having a shocking record for road deaths and with alcohol being a contributing factor in nearly 50% of those deaths, the potential benefits are great.

“The impact of drink driving on our community is devastating.

“The personal cost is appalling with too many people left grieving for friends and family killed or maimed in preventable road accidents.

“The financial cost to the Territory in health costs and loss of productivity are also substantial.

“I can only note that the Martin Government decided to impose a speed limit on the open road with little evidence that such an imposition would reduce the road toll.

“In this instance a modest investment should bring long term benefits to all Territorians.”

Further comment: Fay Miller 047 720 5111