SafeStops Australia

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SAFTEY NEWSLETTER

AN INDEPENDANT, GOVERNMENT-ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE RECOGNISED THROUGH THE PERMIERS CODING CHALLANGE



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first edition of the SafeStops Australia public tansport safety newsletter.

This monthly publication aims to improve public understanding of transport safety by summerising publicly reporte accident data, safety incidents, and positive developments across Australia's public transport networks. By sharing accurate information in a responsible way, SafeStops Australia seeks to support safer behaviour, informed discussion, and continuous improvement in transport environments.

Public transport remains one of the safest ways to travel in Australia. However, incidents do occur, and understanding when, where, and why they happen is an important part of prevention. This newsletter is designed to inform - not alarm - and to highlight both challanges and progress in public transport safety.

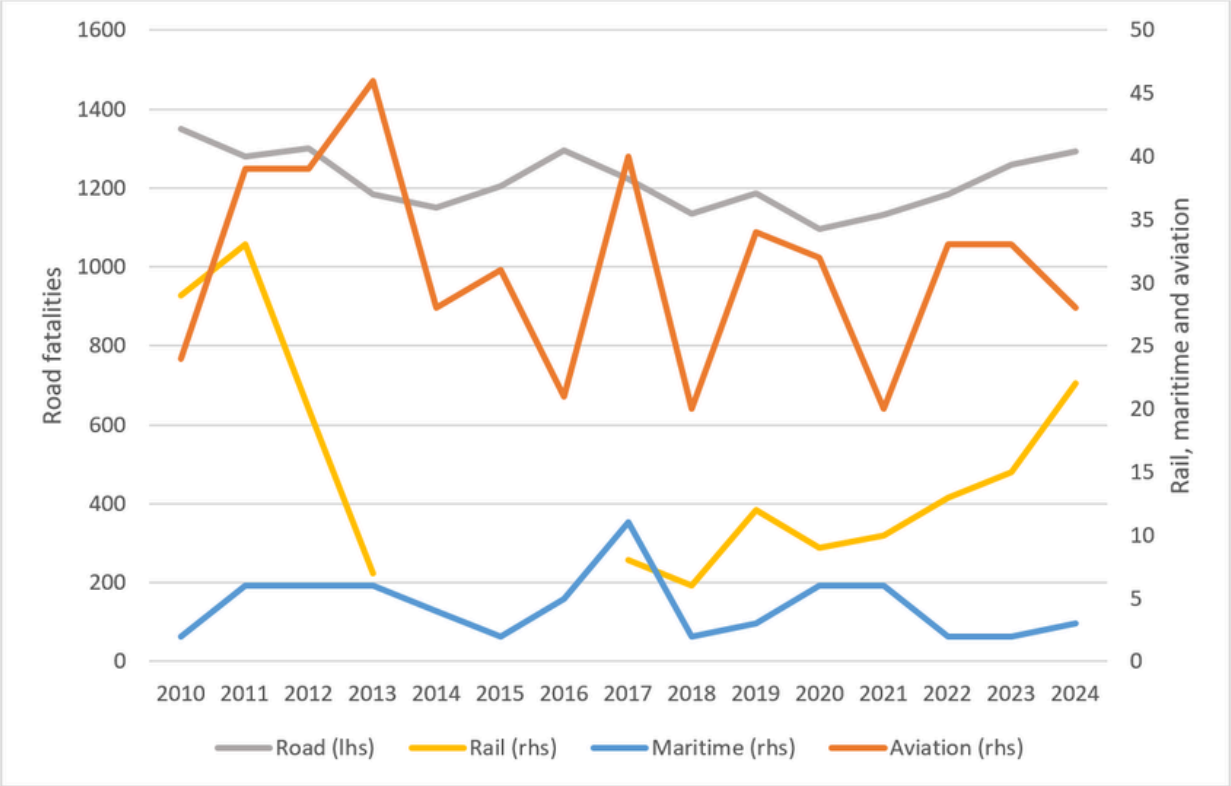
- Jayden Rammell, SafeStops Australia

NATIONAL TRANSPORT SAFETY SNAPSHOT

Publicaly avaliable data shows that transport safety outcomes vay by mode, environment, and behaviour.

- According to national transport safety reporting, Australia recorded 22 rail-related fatalities and 66 serious injuries in 2024, excluding suspected suicide.
- Transport incidents remain a leading cause of accidental injury hospitalisation, with tens of thousands of hospital admissions annually across all transport modes.
- Buses and Coaches continue to represent a very small proportion of transport-related fatalities, particularly when measured against passanger journeys completed.

These figures reinforce that public transport is statistically safe overall, while also highlighting ares where targeted safety improvements remain important.

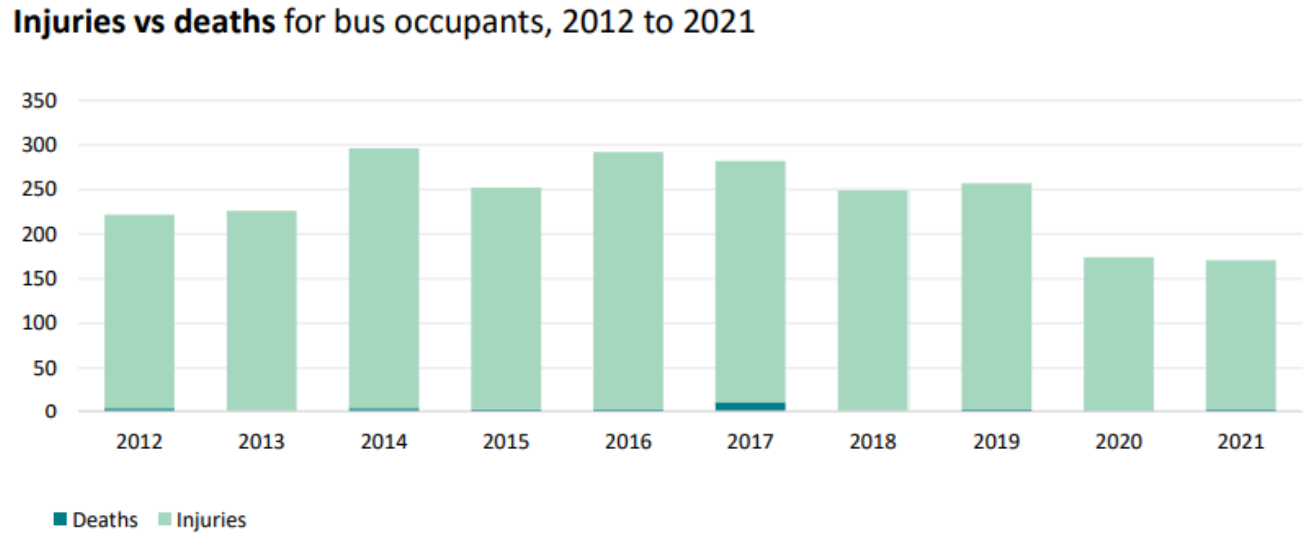


BUS AND COACH SAFETY OVERVIEW

Long-term data indicates that bus travel is among the safest forms of road transport in Australia.

- Between 2012 and 2023, bus crashes accounted for approximately 1.6% of all fatal road crashes nationally.
- On average, around 239 bus occupants per year required hospitalisation due to crash-related injuries.
- Safety reforms introduced following major accidents, including the Hunter Valley bus crash, have accelerated national improvements such as seatbelt requirements, signage, and safety messaging.

Ongoing policy responses continue to strengthen bus passanger safety standards nationwide.



Source 7 AIHW Hospitalised Injuries, 2012 to 2021. National Crash Database as at 2021

RAIL, TRAM, AND LEVEL-CROSSING SAFETY

Rail and light-rail systems remain highly safe but require continued attention in high-risk environments.

- National data indicates hundreds of reported near-miss incidents at rail level crossings over multi-year periods, involving vehicles and pedestrians.
- Research into tram incidents shows that tram–pedestrian collisions, while rare, often result in severe outcomes, highlighting the importance of urban design, visibility, and public awareness.
- Safety campaigns targeting unsafe pedestrian behaviour near rail corridors have contributed to measurable reductions in near-miss events in several states.



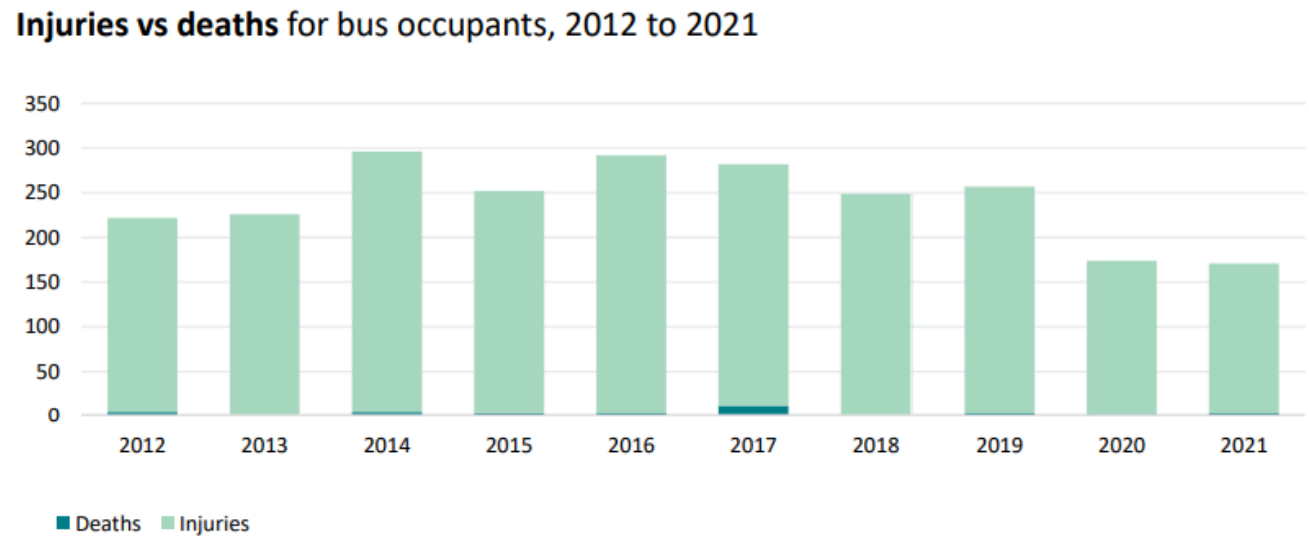
Source 7 AIHW Hospitalised Injuries, 2012 to 2021. National Crash Database as at 2021

RECENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SAFETY

The following incidents were publicly reported and are included for awareness purposes:

- Melbourne (January 2026): An object was thrown at a metropolitan bus service, shattering internal glass. No serious injuries were reported, and passengers were safely transferred to another service.
- Adelaide (June 2025): A bus slipped off the O-Bahn guideway during operations. The driver was uninjured, and there were no passengers on board at the time.
- Sydney (2025): Multiple tram-related pedestrian fatalities prompted renewed discussion around carriage design, crossing behaviour, and platform safety.

These incidents demonstrate that while serious events are uncommon, environmental design, behaviour, and situational awareness remain critical factors in transport safety.



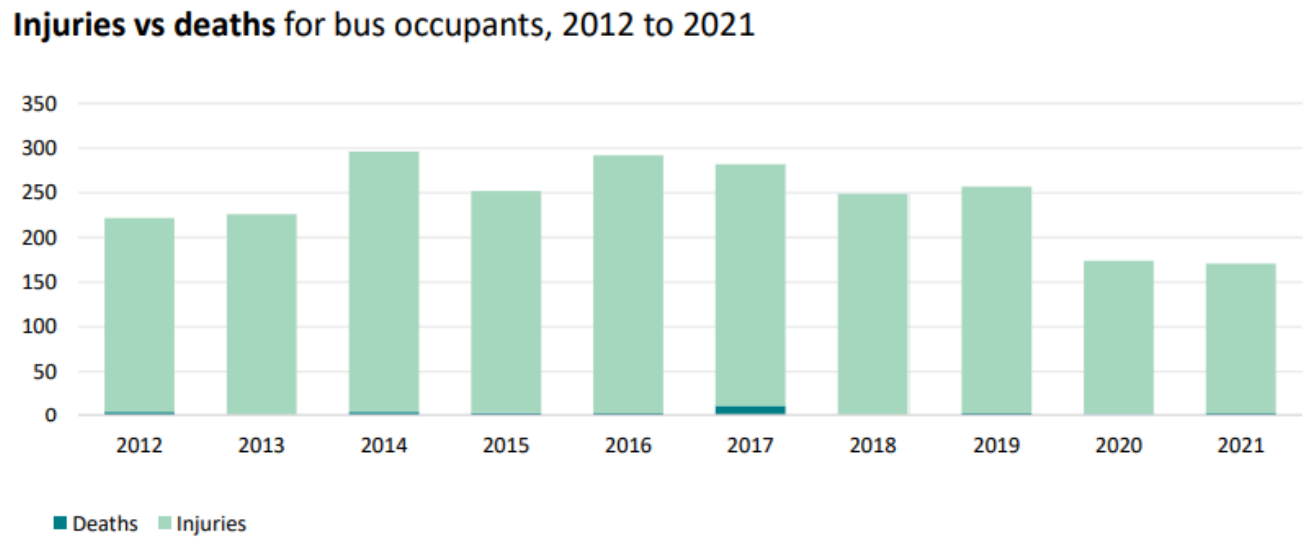
Source 7 AIHW Hospitalised Injuries, 2012 to 2021. National Crash Database as at 2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SAFETY

Despite isolated incidents, several encouraging trends continue across Australia:

- Government investment in public transport safety infrastructure, including lighting, CCTV, and visible patrols, has increased in multiple states.
- Some networks have reported significant reductions in rail near-miss incidents, attributed to improved public awareness campaigns and operational changes.
- National policy reforms are strengthening vehicle safety standards, staff protections, and passenger information systems.

These developments highlight the value of evidence-based safety policy and ongoing review.



Source 7 AIHW Hospitalised Injuries, 2012 to 2021. National Crash Database as at 2021

SAFETY INSIGHT: WHAT PASSANGERS CAN DO

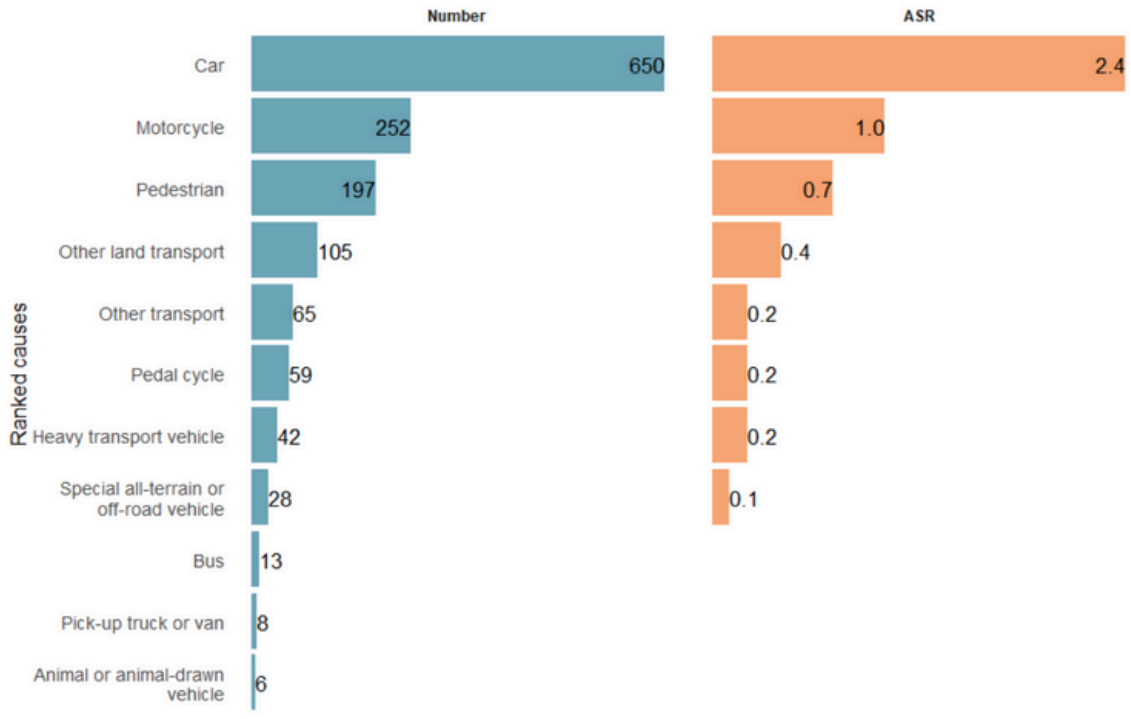
While operators and governments play a major role, passenger awareness also contributes to safer outcomes:

- Wait in well-lit, visible areas whenever possible
- Stay aware of surroundings, particularly during off-peak hours
- Avoid distractions near platforms, crossings, and vehicle doors
- Report unsafe or antisocial behaviour through official transport channels

A calm, respectful environment benefits everyone using public transport.

Passangers can also view our website SafeStops-Australia.neocities.org to view ifnromation and diagrams of safety awareness.

Figure 2: Number and age-standardised rate of injury deaths by type of transport involved, Australia, 2022–23



Notes:

1. ASR is the age-standardised rate per 100,000 population.
2. ASRs where the numerator is less than 20 are not shown due to data volatility.

Sources: AIHW National Mortality Database and ABS National, state and territory population.

ABOUT SAFESTOPS-AUSTRLAIA

SafeStops Australia is an independent public transport safety awareness initiative focused on promoting safer behaviour, informed discussion, and continuous improvement in transport environments.
The project received official recognition through the Premier's Coding Challenge and is currently developed and hosted independently.

NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW

The March 2026 edition will include:

- Updated national transport safety statistics
- A focus on bus stop and station environment safety
- Community safety insights and reporting guidance

DISCLAIMER

This publication summarises publicly reported information for general safety awareness purposes. It does not replace official transport authority, emergency service, or law enforcement communications.

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