

RAA Member Panel

Drink and Drug Driving

Random Breath Testing (RBT) was introduced to South Australia in 1981, with limited resources and shrouded in controversy. However, by 1986 a redesigned and resourced RBT strategy delivered significant improvements in the detection of drivers over the prescribed alcohol limit, and reduced the number of crashes involving drink drivers.

Drivers can now also be saliva tested to detect the presence of THC (cannabis), Methamphetamine (speed) and MDMA (ecstasy). These drugs account for the most common illegal drugs detected by police in drivers.

Leading into the holiday season, RAA asked members for their views on drink and drug driving.

Summary

Things we consider before going out socially

While more than 85 per cent of members choose to drive to social events, they first consider whether or not they will be having any alcohol. If not driving, taxi/chauffeur vehicles (30%) are the most common alternative, followed by being a passenger in a car (29%), then public transport (20%).

Three in ten respondents indicated they have been worried that they may be breathalysed and be over the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05 when leaving a social event.

Members expect to see more RBTs in the holiday season

More than 85 per cent of members expect to see additional RBTs on the roads during the holiday season. However, seeing an RBT on their way home from a social event was not a major consideration when choosing how to get there in the first instance.

RBTs more common than drug tests

Nearly two in three members have seen an RBT in the past six months, and of the 83 per cent that have been pulled over, 28 per cent of these occurred in the past six months. Yet for nearly 50 per cent of members, it has been two years or more since being randomly tested.

Less than one per cent of member's reported only having a drug test, compared to 97 per cent being breath tested and three per cent having both drug and alcohol tests.

Nine in ten members tested were stopped by a Roadside RBT station, with the remaining 10 per cent being pulled over by police while driving.

Members would like to have access to breathalyser units, but are unsure if they can be trusted

Nearly 70 per cent of members would like to see more breathalyser units in restaurants and hotels, yet only 16 per cent of members would trust the units to be accurate.

There are many different personal hand-held breathalyser units on the market. Nine per cent of members surveyed currently own one, with the majority of these members trusting the reading provided.

Members like free public transport on New Year's Eve

If members intend to go out on New Year's Eve, the majority (67%) will travel by car, either as the driver or a passenger. Regardless of this, more than four in five members support free public transport on New Year's Eve.

People are more concerned about drug drivers than drink drivers

55 per cent of members are more concerned about drivers with illicit drugs in their system and the remaining 45 per cent are concerned about BAC levels. When analysing the comments the following themes were identified:

- Alcohol is cited as being a key contributor to the problem of drink driving, as it is accessible and considered a social norm.
- Drugs were cited as being a major concern as there is a perception people on illicit drugs are unpredictable, and could act erratically.
- Members noted more media surrounded people who were involved in crashes with alcohol in their system than drugs.
- Greater understanding is needed around how and when drugs impair driving ability.

Frome Street Bike Lanes

The Frome Street redevelopment incorporating separated bike lanes and retaining on-street car park options has been problematic, with the Adelaide City Council recently announcing consultation on a new proposal. RAA asked its members for their thoughts on the matter, as our members can both drive and cycle, therefore it is important to represent their views with a balanced approach.

Most members are indifferent to the current Frome Street bike lane design

More than three quarters of our members are aware of the Frome Street bike lanes. However, just over half have used the southern section of Frome Street in the past 12 months.

While 41 per cent of members were indifferent to the current design, one third were unhappy and 26 per cent happy.

The majority of respondents (44%) were unsure how they felt about the current design of Frome Street, with 54 per cent in favour of returning Frome Street to two lanes of traffic in peak periods.

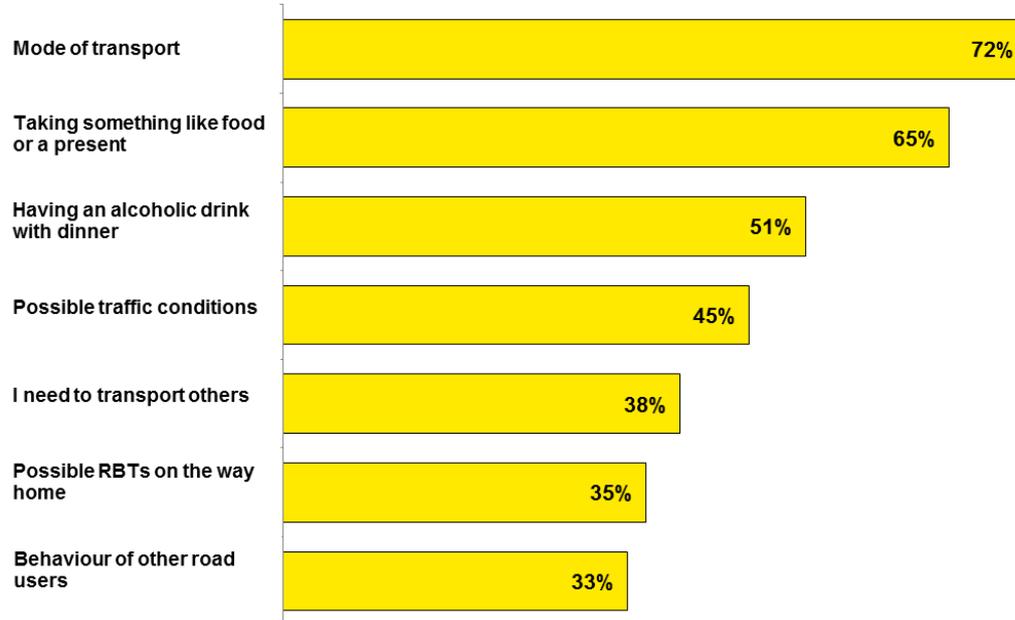
The general themes of comments regarding this section of road included:

- There's a need to have greater consideration and modelling of traffic flow.
- The current design poses safety risks for cyclists, motorists and scooter riders.
- Need to improve the consultation process.
- There is currently too much concrete in the design.
- Bike ways must be continuous, with consideration to separation and on road where appropriate, and importantly dependent on the traffic conditions and demands.

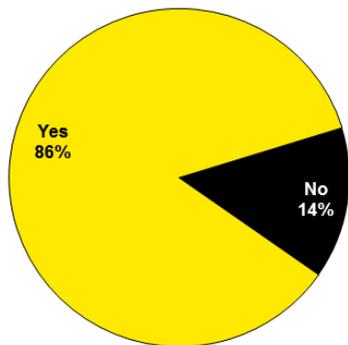
Appendix: Key Results

Choosing your transport

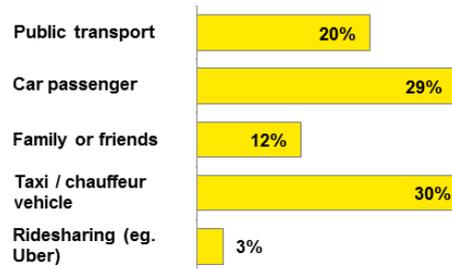
You have been invited to catch up with friends for dinner and it's too far to walk. Do you give consideration to any of the following when deciding how to get there and back? (Select all that apply)



If you were to catch up with friends for dinner, are you likely to drive?

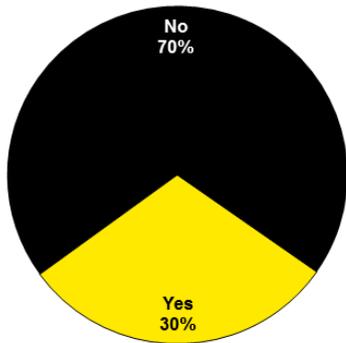


As you wouldn't drive, how would you most likely get there?

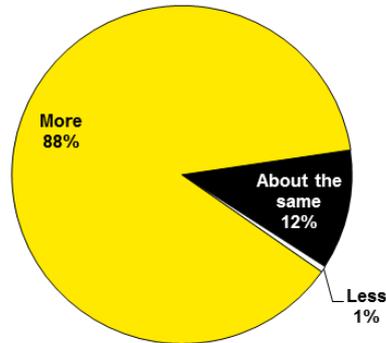


Random Breath Testing

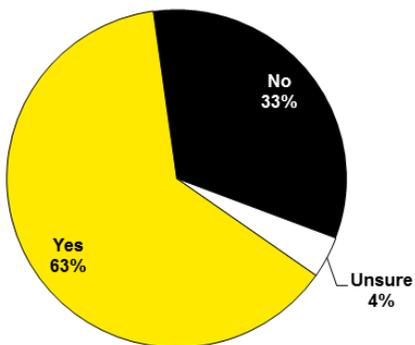
In the past have you ever left a social event and been worried that you may be breathalysed by the Police and be over the blood alcohol limit of 0.05 when driving home?



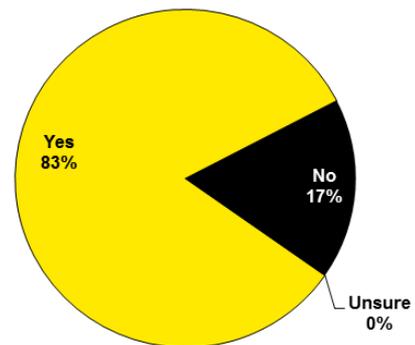
Considering the upcoming holiday season would you anticipate seeing more or less roadside Random Breath Testing stations (RBT's)?



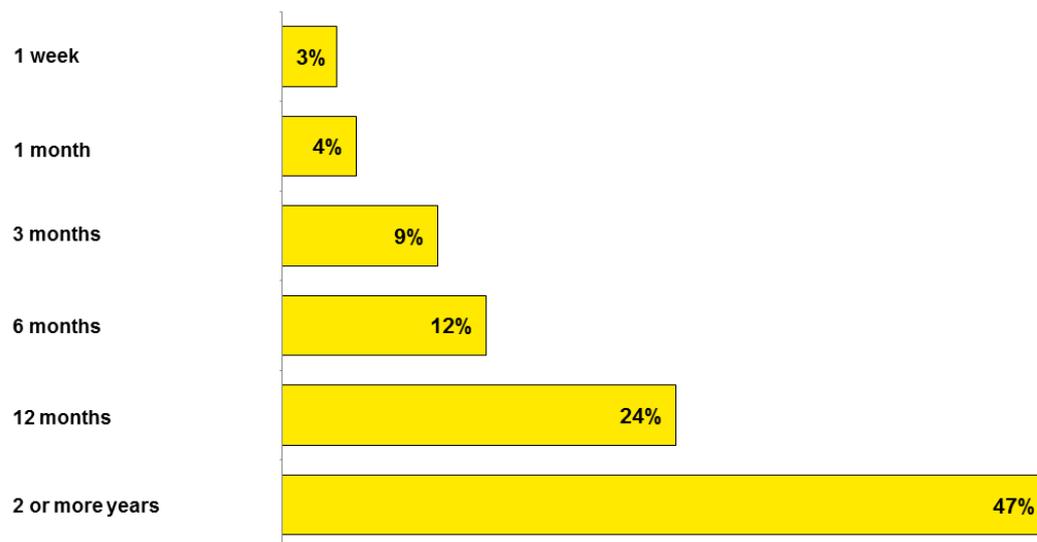
Have you seen the Police conduct a roadside RBT in the last 6 months?



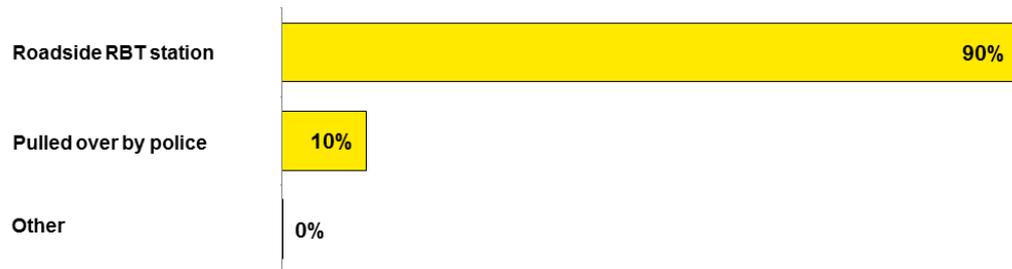
Have you been stopped at an RBT by the Police?



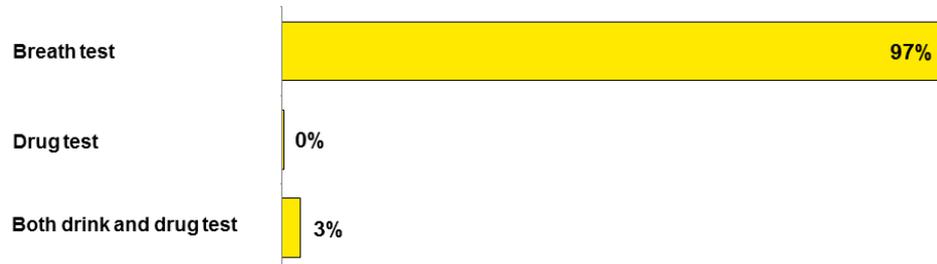
As you've previously been stopped by the Police in the past, what best reflects the last time an officer tested you for drink or drug driving?



When you were last tested by Police, how was it conducted?



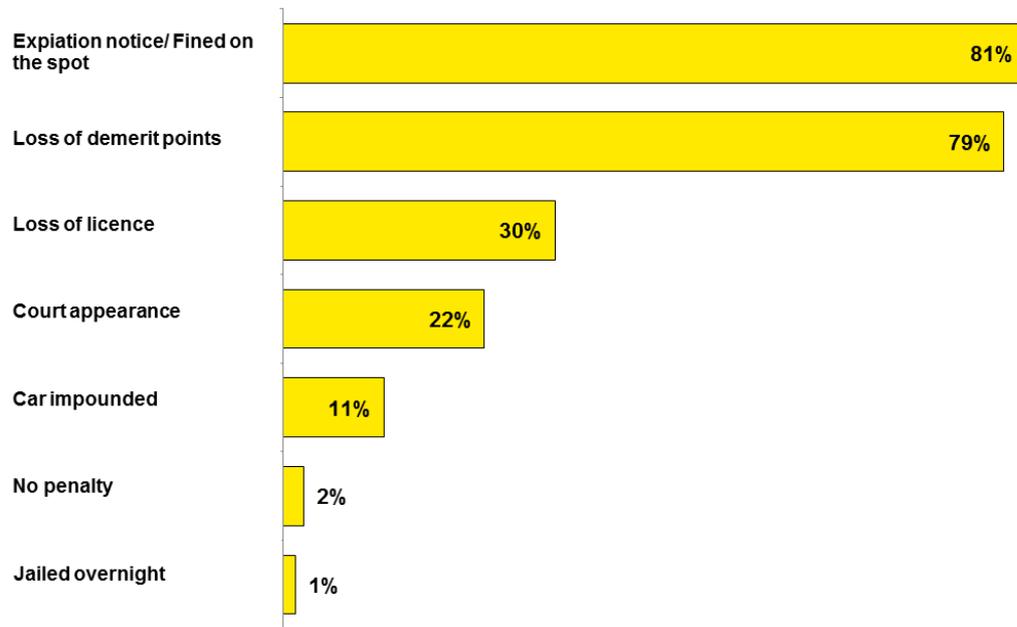
What tests did the police officer ask you to complete?



What do you consider to be drink driving?

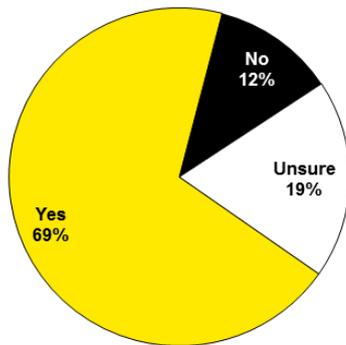


Currently the legal blood alcohol limit when driving is under 0.05. If you were breath tested by the Police and recorded a reading of 0.06, what do you believe the penalty/ies will be? (Select all that apply)

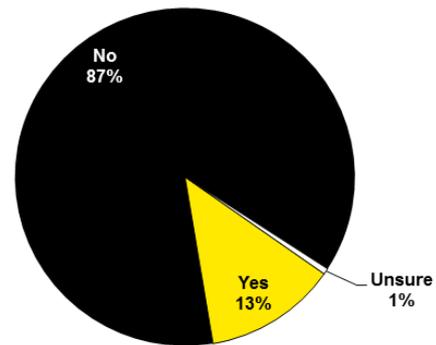


Alternate Breath Testing Units

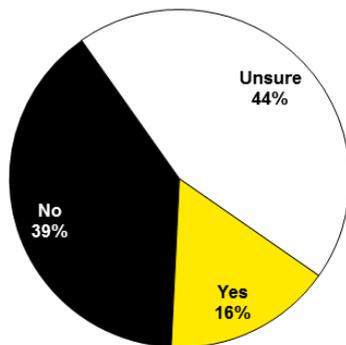
Would you like to see more breathalyser units installed in hotels and restaurants to help patrons determine their BAC levels and decide whether to drive home or not?



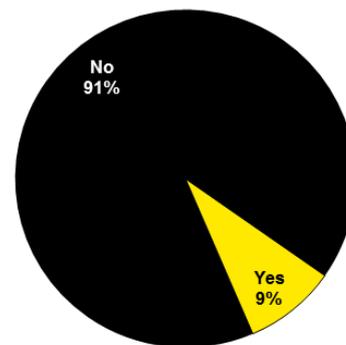
Have you ever used a breathalyser unit in a hotel or restaurants?



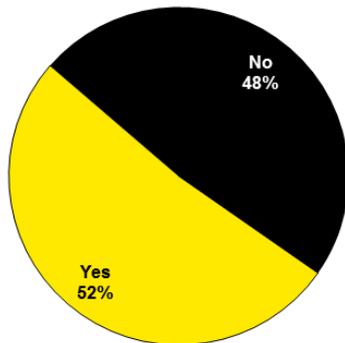
Would you trust the reading from the breathalyser units in hotels and restaurants as accurate?



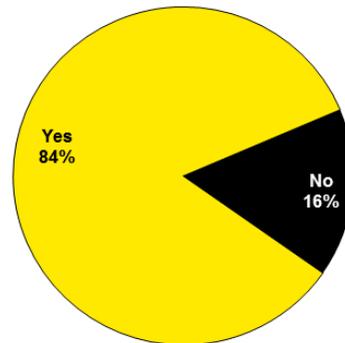
Do you have a personal hand-held breathalyser unit?



Do you trust the readings provided by your personal hand-held breathalyser unit?

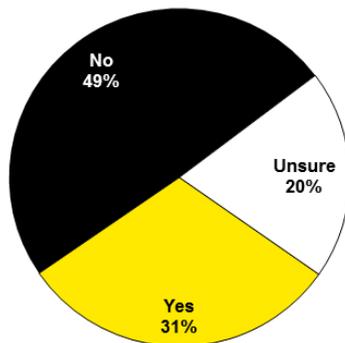


Since you own a personal breathalyser, did you know it needs to be calibrated?

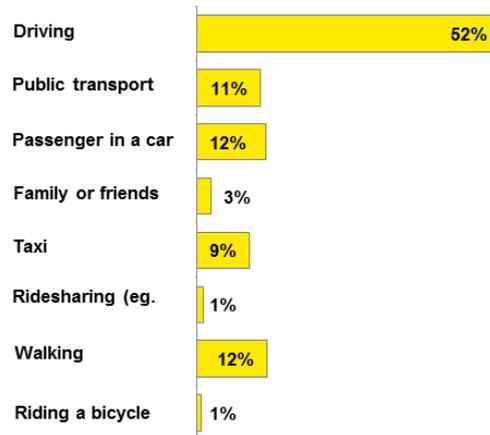


New Year's Eve

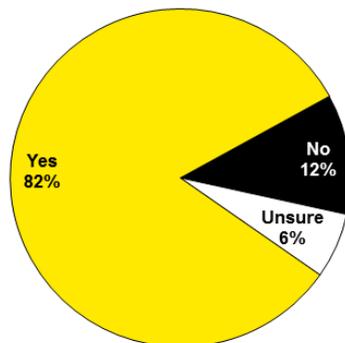
Thinking ahead to New Years Eve, are you likely to go out for the evening?



On New Years Eve, how are you most likely to get home?

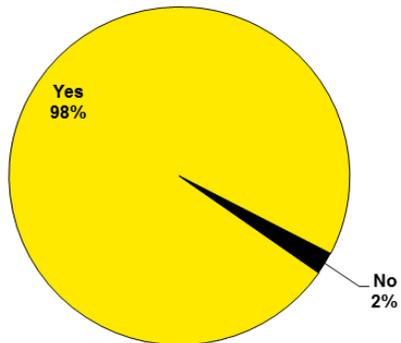


Do you believe public transport should be free on New Year's Eve (6pm - 6am)?



Drug Driving

Are you aware that if the Police detect any level of illegal drugs in your system whilst driving that you are breaking the law?

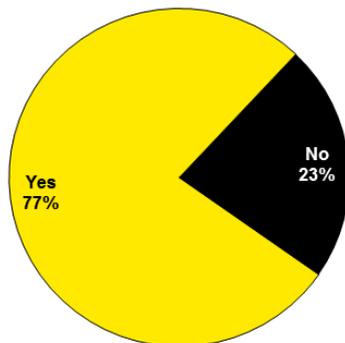


What are you more concerned about?

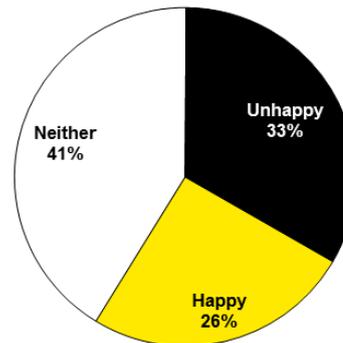


Frome Street Bikeway

Are you aware of the Frome Street bike lanes?



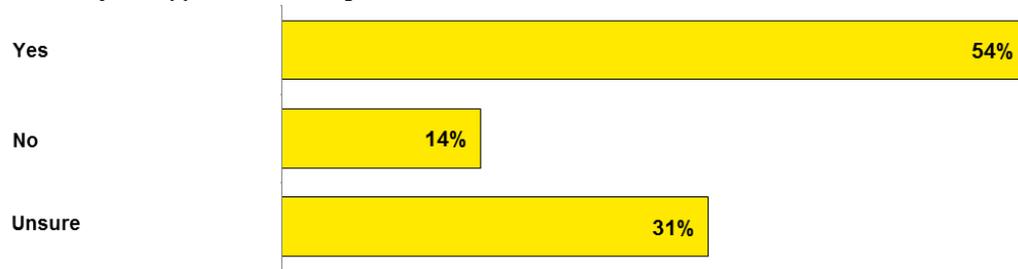
What do you think of the southern section of Frome Street (one lane in each direction, parking and separated bike lane).



Have you used the southern section of Frome Street in the past 12 months?

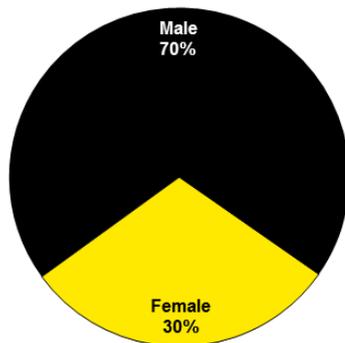


The Adelaide City Council may redesign a section of Frome Street including returning it to two lanes in each direction during peak periods, no parking during peak periods, and a reduced width separated bike lane. Do you support these changes?



Demographics

Gender



Where do you live

