# MEDIA RELEASE 1: PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

In recent years, almost one pedestrian a week has been killed on Victorian roads. As a result pedestrians are being urged to take extra care when crossing the road in **(insert location)**. including when using pedestrian crossings.

Mayor/Councillor **(insert name)** said “Pedestrians should cross at traffic lights, pedestrian crossings controlled by lights or marked crossings wherever possible and must obey the road rules.”

As well as being dangerous, it is an offence for a pedestrian to begin crossing when the ‘red man’ signal is displayed, and penalties apply. Pedestrians should always wait for the next green cycle.

But if the ‘red man’ signal begins flashing while a pedestrian is part way across a road, there is time to safely complete crossing.

Cr **(insert name)** said a pedestrian crossing on the ‘green man’ signal still needs to watch for any vehicles turning into the road they are crossing, in case drivers fail to give way.

“Pedestrians must take responsibility for their own safety, ensure they can be seen and remain alert at all times,” Cr **(insert name)** said.

At marked crossings, pedestrians should make sure that drivers and riders in the lane nearest them have seen them and are stopping before stepping onto the road. Pedestrians then need to check that traffic in any other lanes is stopping before continuing to cross the road.

Drivers and riders must not overtake a stationary vehicle stopped at a pedestrian crossing.

Children’s crossings operate when flags are displayed, whether or not there is a crossing supervisor on duty. Drivers and riders must stop when an adult or child is about to step on to the crossing or when a supervisor displays a hand-held ‘Stop’ sign. Drivers and riders must not proceed until all pedestrians, including the supervisor, have cleared the crossing.

“Motorists need to take extra care near schools, as children may do the unexpected such as run on to the road without looking or from between parked cars,” Cr **(insert name)** said.

Cr **(insert name)** reminded drivers and riders that it was their legal responsibility to avoid a collision at all times, even if pedestrians were breaking the law, and urged motorists to be alert.

“Motorists need to allow for pedestrians who make mistakes,” Cr (**insert name**) said.

For further information, please contact (**insert name and telephone number and/or email address**)

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