



TARS Research Group

Performance Overview: December 2010 – November 2013

Transport and Road Safety (TARS) Research

Research Performance Overview

Transport and Road Safety (TARS) Research Group

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Background

In 1999, the Health Administration Corporation (HAC), Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA), Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA) and The University of New South Wales (UNSW) formed a collaboration to fund the NSW Injury Risk Management Centre (NIMRC). The collaboration was renewed by Deed of Agreement, after a review, in 2002 and 2008 for a further five year period in each case. The RMRC Deed of Agreement was varied to allow the establishment of the Transport and Road Safety (TARS) Research group within the School of Aviation and the Falls Injury Prevention Group (FIPG) within Neuroscience Research Australia. The Deed of Variation (Variation) for each research group commenced on 1 December 2010 and expired on 30 November 2013. Over this time, the TARS Research has now grown to around 20 research staff and students and is continuing as an independent research centre within the School of Aviation at the UNSW.

This report provides a high level overview of the TARS Research groups performance during the period covered by the Variation and provides a platform for the ongoing activities of TARS Research.

Future Strategic Direction

The future strategic direction of TARS Research is focused on the key areas of research, community engagement and capacity building. We aspire to do this through:

Research

- Undertake profound research which benefits society;
- Be recognised as a peer in good standing with the world's best transport and road safety researchers;
- To build on current leading performance and continue attracting ARC, NHMRC and industry funding for strategic research;

Community Engagement

- Translate fundamental science into new policy and practice;
- Equip government and industry to contribute to NSW, Australia and the world;
- Continue work towards the promotion of injury prevention measures, in a road environment, which supports the vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries within a Safe System approach;

Capacity Building

- To maintain and extend our position as Australia's leading research centre in terms of road safety research output per capita;
- To be recognised as the research centre of choice for experts of high quality seeking to undertake transport and road safety research;
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Skills & Expertise

The philosophy of the TARS Research group is the safe system principle, commonly used in occupational health and safety. This requires a multidisciplinary approach to road safety research and policy development, where researchers focus on Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles, and Safer People and their integration into a Safe System approach.

TARS Research staff has enormous depth of multidisciplinary expertise and experience, and very strong nationally and internationally recognised track records of expertise across the entire range of road and transport safety. TARS research is structured around the essential disciplines needed for an effective transport and road safety research centre: safety policy and systems, psychology, human factors, engineering and crashworthiness, information technology systems, biomechanics, biostatistics, epidemiology, and social sciences.

TARS Research has 12 PhD level research staff covering 24 areas detailed in [TARS Capability & Expertise Matrix](#)

Publications

During the period 2010-2013, there has been a consistent increase in peer reviewed publications as summarised in the Tables below. These show the number of each type of publication, the fractional contribution of TARS Research staff and number [Higher Education Research Data Collection](#) (HERDC) points accrued for each category. A detailed list of research outputs is [available](#)

2013

HERDC Category	Count	Fractions	Points
Book	1	0.1667	0.1667
Book chapter	4	0.9167	0.5
Journal article	43	20.1339	20.1339
Conference	15	9.2083	9.2083
Total	63	30.4256	30.0089

2012

HERDC Category	Count	Fractions	Points
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2011



Governance & Reporting

The Management Review Committee met on a quarterly-basis to coordinate research direction and quality and enhance liaison between TARS, TfNSW and MAA. The Committee consisted as follows with the Secretariat function provided by the Research Business Manager:

Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW

- General Manager
- Principal Research Scientist
- Manager 1.032]TJ -20.77 -1.219 Td [(q)-1(u)-1(a)-3(l)-1(i)-1(t)1(y)-1((t)1(f)-8 0.002 1 Tf -2R(