

Media Statement

28 December 2015

Play it safe

Have a good time at the Falls Music and Arts Festival and make sure you get home safely, patrons were urged today.

“That’s why Road Safety Advisory Council volunteers will provide breath testing on New Year’s Day from 7am to 1pm,” Road Safety Advisory Council Chair Jim Cox said.

Falls Music and Arts Producer Paul Piticco said the festival was a celebration of music, arts and community.

“People come to the festival to enjoy themselves but we don’t want anybody’s enjoyment to be ruined on the way home because of unsafe driving,” Mr Piticco said.

“With a crowd of more than 14,000 people, the Falls Music and Arts Festival take a lot of drivers off the road at a peak time of the year and allow them to celebrate without driving home.

“We really hope that patrons will be sensible and use the breath testing facilities to help them gauge if they should be driving and they can apply the knowledge gained, at the festival as well as in the future.”

Mr Cox said people could still be over the limit even if they had slept. He said the average person took about an hour to process a stubby of beer or a 125ml glass of wine depending on their age, what they’ve eaten and physique.

“You do the maths. If you have a dozen drinks, it will be 12 or so hours before you may be okay to drive. Get a lift with someone who has a zero blood alcohol count.

The Falls Music and Arts Festival will host a Recovery Breakfast BBQ on New Year’s Day at the Marion Bay festival site so patrons can rest, avoid traffic and queues and enjoy the food, fun activities and voluntary breath testing before going home.

“We would much rather that if people thought that they were over the limit that they relax at the festival grounds until they are safe to drive,” said Mr Piticco.

The Road Safety Advisory Council voluntary breath-testing site will be open from 7am to 1pm on 1 January. There will be also be breath testing at information booths during the festival.

Six tips to stay safe:

1. Eat between drinks.
2. Alternate alcoholic drinks with non-alcoholic ones.
3. Your blood alcohol level can continue to rise after you have stopped drinking and you can still be over the limit the next day if you have drunk a lot the night before.
4. Be patient. There will be delays going to and from the Festival.
5. Take your time getting home and stop for a break or two along the way so you don't drive tired.