

Media Statement

28 December 2018

Dangerous day

New Year's Eve revellers can still be over the limit, long after they've had their last drink, Road Safety Advisory Council Chair Garry Bailey warned today.

"If you're going to the Falls, you can make sure you get home safely by getting a breath test before you go," Mr Bailey said.

Falls Music and Arts Producer Paul Piticco said organisers wanted everyone to get home safely.

"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 16,000 people, the Falls Music and Arts Festival takes 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 Bailey said it was possible to be over the limit hours after the last drink. 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.

"If you have a 12 drinks, it will be 12 or so hours before you might be okay to drive. Get tested by one of volunteers before you leave the festival.

"The reading is an indication only and it's always best to play it safe. If you're close to the limit, don't drive. Get a lift with someone who has a zero blood alcohol count."

There'll be a Recovery Breakfast BBQ, sponsored by the Road Safety Advisory Council, on New Year's Day 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.

Road Safety Advisory Council voluntary breath-testing 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.