



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 September 2008

Do driving skills really get better with age?

New research questions myth of middle-aged 'safer' drivers

The image of the middle aged, mild and safe driver may literally be about to come crashing to a halt as new research suggests that **'late thirty-plus' drivers are responsible for most fleet accidents.**

ProAct, the accident management service of leading fleet company **Interleasing** carried out research that concluded that younger 'testosterone driven' drivers only account for a fraction of the fleet accident incidents compared to their so-called older and wiser colleagues.

The research, that uses data from more than 1,000 drivers, shows that **17-25 year olds** only account for **five per cent of recorded incidents** of damage whereas the **36 – 50 age bracket were responsible for eight times this number.**

However, although involved in more incidents, the cost of middle-aged driver's accidents is likely to be less than those of the younger drivers. There are fewer fleet drivers in the 17-25 year old bracket, however their accidents are more often much more serious.

The average repair cost for an older driver's vehicle after an accident is around \$2,200. For younger drivers who have fewer accidents, the average cost is more than \$3,200. Although younger drivers have far fewer accidents, when accidents happen, younger drivers cost the company more.

Michael Mitrovits, Managing Director at Interleasing, says: "This research clearly shows that the driver is one of the biggest risks to fleet management in business, no matter how old they are. Companies who use fleets must look at specific driving education programs to get all drivers to form a habit of safe driving practices.

"Putting younger, over-confident drivers behind the wheel of a company car that does not belong to them is likely to bring out the riskier driving practices. However the surprise is the high number of incidents for middle aged drivers. This could be due to bad habits or complacency," continued Michael.

For more information contact:
Horizon Communication Group
Tanya Holloway/Juliana Robinson
p: (02) 8572 5626/(02) 8572 5616
e: tanya@horizoncommunication.com.au/juliana@horizoncommunication.com.au



“Companies must invest in proper training for the individuals who are costing their business and in order to maximize their Occupational Health and Safety policies. Our ProAct service has a risk management function which monitors ongoing fleet patterns over a period of time, identifies the accident and vehicle theft risks from the data and suggests ways to minimise them so as to better protect employees. Interleasing also offers extensive driver training to its fleet customers, and an initiative not too far off in the near future is the implementation of eco-driver training.”

-ENDS-

NB: Information was collated by ProAct, the accident management service of Interleasing, from 1,126 Interleasing customers across Australia.

For more information contact:

Horizon Communication Group

Tanya Holloway/Juliana Robinson

p: (02) 8572 5626/(02) 8572 5616

e: tanya@horizoncommunication.com.au/juliana@horizoncommunication.com.au

About Interleasing

Interleasing, the Australian fleet management experts, specialise in the financing and management of fleets of cars and other vehicles for Australian companies. Interleasing manage all aspects of fleet vehicles, from buying or leasing cars to running them effectively.

Interleasing is part of the global Masterlease Group, which has over 40 years experience in the leasing market and operates in Europe, Mexico, and Australia (under the Interleasing name).

Interleasing is a Carbon Neutral accredited organisation – they measure, reduce and offset our carbon emissions. Interleasing partners with Carbon Planet to deliver this reduction, and is one of the first fleet management companies to become carbon neutral. Within three years Interleasing is aiming to reduce its emissions by 35 % and they are currently investigating other ways to encourage customers to become green organisations.

For more information contact:

Horizon Communication Group

Tanya Holloway/Juliana Robinson

p: (02) 8572 5626/(02) 8572 5616

e: tanya@horizoncommunication.com.au/juliana@horizoncommunication.com.au