



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **‘FOLLOW THAT STAR!’**

### **From star gazers to car grazers - new fleet research asks ‘are we driven by our star sign?’**

It's official - we are driven by the stars rather than our skill behind the wheel, according to new research that says astrological signs might be as influential as roadside ones when it comes to drivers taking risk.

The zodiac correlation was drawn from research conducted by leading fleet management company Interleasing Australia Limited, the main focus of which was to identify risky drivers within car fleets.

The research discovered that those born under the scorpion sign of Scorpio were target material for risk, Sagittarians could be bullish and Cancerians could often be perceived as in two minds while in the driving seat. Written in the stars or written off by them, the findings drew the conclusion that Mars and Pluto colliding at the time of our birth might make us more likely to have our own collisions in later life.

The staggering discoveries behind this ‘highway horoscope’ reveal that there is something fishy about Scorpio drivers as they are more than 41% more likely to get their fleet managers into seriously deep water than the average driver.

It could also be trouble for the stubborn Capricorn drivers who, although statistically are 27 per cent less likely to have accidents, tend to have bigger, more expensive ‘prangs’ (approximately \$2,500) when they do. There was a double target for Taurians, whose characteristics included being ‘practical and reliable’ as they were 28 per cent more likely to have an accident and cost an average of \$2465 to put it right.

The research shows that ‘imaginative and sensitive’ Pisceans may be intuitive in every day life, but not behind the wheel where their ‘escapist and idealistic’ pre-dispositions are reflected in their driving style. As a result Pisceans came out as 9 per cent less likely to have an accident than other drivers. The statistical findings also revealed that on average the Piscean driver costs the fleet insurance company around \$1950 per claim. Although not the highest figure, this does put them into a risk cosmos of their own when added to the other factors.

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The positive Sagittarians are not only 'energetic and enthusiastic' but in accident terms they are the steady eddies of the Zodiac. They have an average number of accidents and when they do report incidents, they tend to cost around \$1,800, the lowest claim on the star chart.

Michael Mitrovits, Managing Director of Interleasing Australia Limited, says: "This research clearly shows that the driver is one of the biggest risks to business and companies should keep a close eye on those whose vehicles frequently seem to be in the wars. Although the star sign analysis can be seen as light hearted there appears to be a strong correlation between date of birth and accidents and suggests that our sample could be driven by something more powerful than a three litre engine!

ProAct, Interleasing's accident management service, conducted the research using sophisticated data-gathering software to examine the accident and incident claims of company car drivers.

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

#### **Survey notes to editors:**

##### **How's my driving by birth sign:**

**Aquarians - the water carrier:** – 15% more inclined to have accidents and cost around \$2150 per prang

**Pisceans – the fishes:** - 9 per cent less likely to have an accident with every claim costing around \$1950.

**Arians – the ram:** - 35 per cent less likely to have an accident, but every accident costing almost \$1970.

**Taurians – the bull:**– 28 per cent more likely to act like they're in a china shop and costing insurance companies around \$2465 per incident

**Gemini – the twins:** - 19 per cent less likely to have an accident, but costing \$1890 per accident

**Cancer – the crab:** - average, costing around \$2100 each time

**Leo – the lion:**– Leos are 18 per cent more likely to have accidents and cost around \$2270 per bump

**Virgo – the virgin:** - especially when it comes to accidents as they score a 6 percent chance of having an accident, although they cost around \$1870 every time they report an incident.

**Librans – the scales:** - 28 per cent less likely to have accidents, but tip the balance the other way with incidents costing up to almost \$2140 per bump

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**Scorpio – the scorpion:** – the main offender with the insurance industry keeping this sign in its sights as it is 41 per cent more likely to have an accident, but the sting in the tail is in the \$2600 bill per insurance claim

**Sagittarians – the archer:** - 5% less likely to have accidents and cost around \$1800 per claim – the lowest average cost per repair across all star signs.

**Capricorns – the goat:** – although 27% less likely to report claims, insurance companies tend to be around \$2500 worse off.

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**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.

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