



Kerry Norton

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1997, my life changed forever. My 34-year-old husband Rick, my only daughter Shani, 4-years-old and myself were going camping down near Wilsons Promontory. We had forgotten our tent, as my husband had worked night shift that night and had only an hours sleep, and were heading back home to retrieve the tent, when we hit a logging truck head-on, crossing a bridge.

My husband and daughter died instantly. I sustained multiple injuries and was trapped for two hours, before getting airlifted to the Alfred Hospital in a critical condition. One of my dogs died and the other survived with multiple injuries.

I spent time at the Alfred Hospital, and then got transferred to the Glen Waverley Rehabilitation Centre. I had to learn to walk again, learn basics all over again, but the biggest thing was coming to term with losing my whole family in a split second.

My daughter was about to start school the following year. We had our Christmas tree nearly ready to go up. I had presents for Shani on lay-by. Rick had just been promoted to after-hours manager. My whole world was gone. The hardest part was going back to my family home and not having them there with me.

Getting the coroners letter in the mail saying that my husband's fatigue had caused the crash, is something I will never come to terms with. Why didn't I drive that day, goes through my mind constantly? 'What if' is another one, 'what if' we hadn't forgotten the tent, 'what if' we hadn't gone camping?

If my story can help prevent road trauma from impacting another family just like mine, I will feel that something positive has come out of something so tragic. This is why campaigns such as **Shine a Light on Road Safety** are vital, to make people stop and think when they are on the roads. You might think speeding or drink driving are OK, but you could kill a family just like mine, and it is a life sentence. Not just for the people involved, but their parents, grandparents, friends, work colleagues, emergency services, witness to the crash and people who are the first on the scene, hospital staff, rehab workers, lawyers and the list goes on and on and on.

Please get behind this wonderful campaign. I am. My friends and family are.

Let's all make a difference and make it safe for our family and friends to get behind the wheel tomorrow and the next day, and the day after that.



SHINE A LIGHT ON ROAD SAFETY

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria's **Shine a Light on Road Safety** campaign is to raise awareness, to stop deaths and injuries on our roads and to raise funds to support those impacted by road trauma: #shinealightonroadsafety.

Friday 4 May motorists are asked to turn on headlights to remember those impacted by road trauma and show your commitment to road safety.

Sunday 6 May there is a community walk at Albert Park Lake to enable community participation in advocating for safer roads.

ILLUMINATIONS

Australian landmarks will be illuminated in yellow for road safety from Monday 30 April to Sunday 6 May; thanks to the support of key partners including the Victorian Government, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), VicRoads, Victoria Police and campaign sponsors.

KEY CAMPAIGN MESSAGES

- Road safety is everyone's responsibility
- Giving the community voice about road trauma
- Our counselling and support services are available free and unlimited to anyone impacted by road trauma.

OUR ORGANISATION

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation contributing to the safety and wellbeing of Victorian road users. We provide counselling and support to people impacted by road trauma, and address attitudes and behaviours of road users through education. We are committed to educating the community and raising public awareness about road trauma and how it affects people's lives; we do this in part by sharing personal stories about road trauma.