

**Submission
No 1**

**INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE ROAD TRAUMA IN REGIONAL NSW CAUSED
BY SPEEDING, FATIGUE, DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING**

Name: Mr Sam Woods

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wished to provide my experiences about road trauma.

although not injured (in an external sense), the events of February 2020 will be forever etched in the minds of my wife and I, which by pure luck, mean we are still alive to tell our version of events.

driving south on the New England hwy near blandford, on the way to visit my brother in Newcastle about 7am on a Saturday. We had our young son (3yrs) in the back and wife was in early stages of pregnancy. In a 100kmh zone we saw a van travelling in the opposite direction, round the corner at speed, cross into our lane of traffic, fish-tale and swerve several times in front of us.

I remember bracing for impact, reaching for wife and being prepared to die. I thought that was it.

But somehow it missed the front of our car by a very short distance. and after passing us, the van rolled several times including over the top of the small car behind us.

Another car towing a trailer that travelling in the same direction as us, was unable to stop in time to avoid all this and then slammed into the rear of our car, crushing the entire rear boot section, before running off the road down an embankment. I looked down at the car on the bank. I could see the driver was not moving, I thought he was dead. I tried opening the door but it was jammed. We later watched on in pure shock as the helicopter airlifted him to hospital.

My wife ended up having a miscarriage and although still early in the term, it was still devastating for us. We'll never know for sure, but doctors suspect it was due to the stress from the shock of the crash

I struggled with driving for a long time after this. I remember gripping the steering wheel with all my might after every passing vehicle, especially on bends.

Why this van driver crossed into our lane - speed, fatigue, inattention, all of the above - I do not know but our lives were changed that day and the mental scars remain even though we're physically ok.