**Alcohol Interlocks – Separating Drinking From Driving**

In New Zealand, the pervasive issue of drink driving casts a long shadow, contributing to over 30% of annual road fatalities. However, there exists a transformative solution — alcohol interlocks.

Alcohol interlocks not only act as a deterrent against drink driving by preventing a vehicle from starting if the driver has alcohol in their system but also play a pivotal role in reshaping long-term behaviors. While New Zealand has an offender interlock program, the broader application of interlocks remains limited, unlike in several European countries where they are embraced as a preventive measure akin to seatbelts.

Beyond the confines of the offender interlock program, numerous vehicle categories in New Zealand, including public transport vehicles (school buses, tourist buses, taxis), dangerous goods vehicles, and heavy vehicles, stand to gain substantial benefits from the integration of alcohol interlocks. The advantages extend beyond individual drivers; they contribute to the overall well-being of communities by fostering a culture that separates drinking from driving.

Alcohol interlocks not only function as a safety mechanism but also serve as an educational tool. By training drivers to disconnect drinking from driving, they contribute to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of drink driving on communities. Road safety and public health stand to benefit significantly from the widespread adoption of alcohol interlocks.

This presentation aims to shed light on international research surrounding alcohol interlocks and the multitude of benefits they offer. Join us in exploring the untapped potential of alcohol interlocks and their role in reshaping the landscape of road safety in New Zealand.