



Professor Peter Vulcan AM

Professor Arthur Peter (Peter) Vulcan AM is a leading Australian road-safety researcher and policy figure: he was the **founding Director of the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC)**, earlier led road-safety work in government bodies such as RoSTA/RTA, authored numerous transport and safety reports, and is honoured by several awards and prizes in his name. He received a major professional award from **ITE Australia & New Zealand (Contribution to the Transport Profession, 2020)** and has been publicly recognised (including in national honours lists) for his service to accident and injury prevention. ([Monash University](#))

1. Peter was a cadet engineer with **Army Design** and worked with them after graduating from **University of Melbourne** in 1954, till moving **Aeronautical Research Labs** as Senior Experimental Officer, in 1961, where he started an aircraft crash injury research program.
2. In 1966, he was awarded a **Commonwealth postgraduate scholarship** to do a PhD in biomechanics, at Wayne State University, in Detroit, USA.
3. On return to Australia in 1969 he was appointed Senior Engineer, Vehicle Structures Safety Branch, **Commonwealth Department of Transport**.
4. In 1970 he was appointed **Director, Road Safety Research**, Commonwealth Department of Transport, and **Chair** of the Committee that formulated the **Australian Design Rules for Motor Vehicle Safety**. Then **Assistant Secretary, Road Transport policy in 1974**.
5. In 1976 he was appointed **Head of RoSTA** and then in 1983 **Chief General Manager of RTA**. He authored and co-authored reports for RoSTA and RTA, including reviews and technical reports on road safety countermeasures and trends (catalogued in state library records). His early government work helped establish road-safety programs in Victoria. ([VGLS](#))
6. **Founding Director of MUARC 1987** — Peter was the founding director of the Monash University Accident Research Centre and led MUARC through its early decades. He retired in 1998. ([Monash University](#))

7. **Researcher, author and contributor to road-safety literature** — He has numerous reports and books to his name (motorcycle safety, vehicle safety standards, modelling of trauma trends, countermeasures reports), appearing in library and research catalogues. MUARC and library records list many of these publications. ([VGLS](#))
8. **Awards and lasting legacy** — MUARC and industry bodies run awards named for him (e.g., the *Peter Vulcan Best Paper / Peter Vulcan Award* for outstanding road-safety research), recognising his central role in establishing a research culture at MUARC. ([Monash University](#))
9. **ITE-ANZ recognition (Contribution to the Transport Profession)** — In 2020 ITE Australia & New Zealand announced Prof Peter Vulcan AM as recipient of their Contribution to the Transport Profession award. ([ITE Australia](#))
10. **National honours / public recognition** — He appears in the 2007 Queen’s Birthday Honours list as *Professor Arthur Peter Vulcan* for service to accident and injury prevention in road. ([Wikipedia](#)) Peter wrote: The AM citation was for “services to road safety and to persons with an intellectual disability” - I had spent some 23 years on the Board of Bayley House, an organisation which provides services for about 200 people with an intellectual disability.