

Dear Senate Committee

My submitted report was prepared for the Sports Science Summit in the UK, Clarke CF, Evaluation of Australia's bicycle helmet laws, The Sports Science Summit, London UK 2015 <http://www.cycle-helmets.com/au-assessment-2015.pdf>

I was living in Melbourne when the law was introduced and had more than 10 years of cycling experience in and around Victoria. I discussed the law with the Chair of the Social Development Committee, Tom Wallace MP and with university staff from Monash University.

Table 5 of my report provides some information on fines for 3 states. It may help the Committee if each State could provide full details on a yearly basis.

Page 21 refers to Erke and Elvik 2007 report (ref 106), detailing a 14% increased risk from helmet use. It is one aspect where I may be able to help explain how this occurs. Helmets can be subject to high 'g' forces (up to 10g – 1986 research) when cyclists hit deep potholes and the extra out of balance forces from helmets can occur before the cyclist has time to react, less than 0.1 seconds, this detracts from balance and control, thus tending to increase the accident rate. Other issues may also be involved contributing to the increased risk.

Kind regards

Colin Clarke