
From: Jes Chalmers
Sent: Monday, 24 August 2020 5:25 PM
To: Committee, Road Safety (SEN)
Subject: Questions on notice - Joint Select Committee on Road Safety

Good afternoon,

Below is the information requested for by the committee, please note I am waiting on one more lot of statistics to come through.

Information on child passenger deaths in the ACT

I am still waiting for statistical information from the Child Death Review Committee in the ACT and will pass this on as soon as they have gotten back to me.

Pedestrian Injuries:

In a research paper by Kidsafe WA they found that there were 14,290 children presented at the Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department) from transport related injuries between July 2006 to June 2016. Their causes were:

- 38% Wheeled Pedestrian
- 33.7% Cyclists (only 19.5% wore a helmet at the time of the injury)
- 13.3% Passengers
- 6.3% Motorcyclists
- 5.2% Pedestrians

Other instances of a lower rates of death due to checking programs

Free checking programs in other states need to have further research done before there can be a clear indicator of a lowering of child deaths. However, there has been a decrease in the number of errors when revisiting the same area for checking of child restraints.

Reduction in missus of child restraints

WA has seen an overall reduction from 70-75% missus rate to 50% misuse rate.

In Victoria where Kidsafe has only just started fitting and checking child restraints their recent free restraint checking program found 93% of restraints checked were incorrect

The national average is a misuse rate of around 75%

Auditing programs

There are a number of voluntarily auditing programs in place for registered child restraint fitters. There are some cases of auditing in Kidsafe WA and Kidsafe NSW if there is a complaint put forward but there has been an issue of funding to support these programs. There is also a large range of organisations that register restraint fitters so the issue of auditing and there is also no regulation on retraining of restraint fitters

Pedestrian safety story information

Toby's Story

Because **six-year-old** Toby's parents both worked an early shift, Toby walked to school with his **ten year old sister** and her friends.

Most mornings they used the pedestrian crossing two blocks down near their school.

On this particular morning, Toby's sister was keen to buy some chips for lunch, so they crossed the road early to stop at a milk bar.

They were halfway across the road when a car came out of a nearby side street and accelerated toward them.

The others made it over safely, but Toby hesitated before following. By then it was no longer safe. He ran straight into the path of the car.

As a result of the crash, Toby suffered severe head injuries. He spent one and a half weeks in intensive care, a further seven weeks in hospital, and two more months in a rehabilitation facility before returning to his family.

Because of Toby's disability, his mother has had to leave work to care for him.

At the new school he will be going to soon, he will share a class with four other severely disabled children.

Please let me know if you need anything further

Kind Regards

Jes Chalmers
CEO

Kidsafe ACT

Child Safety is No Accident

