

## Queensland

### Executive Officer Report

Welcome to our Winter Edition of Kidsafe News, QLD. In this edition we have covered an ongoing education campaign targeting correct use of child restraints. It is anticipated that in early 2009 new Queensland legislation will be in place to strengthen existing child restraint laws. We also hear too many stories about toddlers being run over in driveways. Kidsafe QLD has embarked on a campaign to highlight the dangers of driveways for children with information on how to prevent these tragedies. See below for information. We hope you find this edition informative and look forward to any feedback you may have.

**Robyn Allen Executive Officer**

#### Burns from a stuffy nose

Parents need to be aware of the potential burn risk associated with the common practice of breathing humidified air to relieve the symptoms of a stuffy nose.



Humidifying vaporizers and the more common practice of breathing vapour from a bowl of hot water have produced serious burns in young children. Children under 3 are particularly vulnerable to serious burns to the hand when they touch vaporizers which have been left on the bedroom floor

while older children are at risk of spilling the contents of a bowl of hot water into their lap.

During 2001-2006, 27 children aged 4-14 years received burns from vaporizers or bowls of hot water. (Wallis B., Turner J., Pearn J & Kimble R. Scalds as a result of vapour inhalation therapy, Burns 34(4), 560-564).

#### Upcoming Events /News

##### **Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo Fri 27th June - Sun 29th June 2008**

-Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Bank. Contact [www.pbcexpo.com.au](http://www.pbcexpo.com.au)

##### **Playspace Resource Kit**

Kidsafe QLD has a new playground resource kit available for sale. The kit has 20 fact sheets covering all aspects of playground safety.

#### Spot the Tot Campaign

According to statistics tragically, one child, usually a toddler, is run over in the driveway of their home every week in Australia. Kidsafe Qld, with the support of NRMA Insurance has developed a **SPOT THE TOT** sticker which can be placed low down on the driver's side window or on the driver's mirror stem.

This helps alert you, the parent and carer to always walk around your parked car to check for children, pets or toys before you start or move your vehicle. Other helpful hints are also provided on the sticker in a bid to make parents and carers more aware of the tragic consequences of driveway runovers usually by the parent, carer or friend of the toddler.

Stickers are available for free from Kidsafe Qld. Just call into Kidsafe House or email [qld@kidsafe.org.au](mailto:qld@kidsafe.org.au) with your address details so information and a sticker can be mailed out.



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## Correct Use of Child Restraints

Kidsafe Qld is set to embark on an ongoing education campaign targeting the correct use of child restraints. As one facet of the campaign Kidsafe Qld has with the help of sponsorship from NRMA Insurance developed a Height Chart which colourfully illustrates important information regarding the use of child restraints and the dangers of young children and driveway runovers.

Research shows that 70% of child restraints are either not fitted or used correctly. A recent paper given at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Annual Congress in Adelaide by Dr Yvonne Zurynski studied serious injuries associated with adult seatbelt misuse in children aged under 12 undertaking an analysis of 65 deaths recorded in the national coroners' database between July 2000 and December 2005. She found almost three quarters of the deaths could have been prevented if appropriate child restraints had been installed and used correctly.

In early 2008 the National Transport Commission (NTC) approved changes to the existing Australian Road Rules. An edited summary of these changes include:

- ◆ If a child is 6mths-4yrs he/she must be restrained in a suitable and properly fastened and adjusted child restraint.
- ◆ If a child is 4yrs-7yrs he/she must be restrained in a suitable and properly fastened and adjusted child restraint.
- ◆ A child under 4yrs must not be in the front row of a vehicle that has 2 or more rows of seats
- ◆ A child 4yrs-7yrs must not be in the front row of a motor vehicle that has 2 or more rows of seats unless all of the other seats behind the front row are occupied by children who are also under 7yrs.

It is expected that these changes will be incorporated into Queensland legislation sometime in late 2008 or early 2009. There may be minor adjustments to the changes suggested by the NTC but these will not be evident until the legisla-

tion is brought before the Queensland Parliament and passed as law.

For a copy of the Height Chart just call into Kidsafe House or email Kidsafe at: [qld@kidsafe.org.au](mailto:qld@kidsafe.org.au)



## Restraints checks at Indooroopilly

On Tuesday 3rd June staff from Kidsafe Qld and NRMA Insurance personnel, conducted free child car restraints checks for parents and carers at Indooroopilly Shopping Centre. The event was very well received with almost 90 child restraints checked on the day.

Some of the common problems that were found on inspection included:

- ◆ Restraint not suitable for child's weight and height
- ◆ Restraint too old – a restraint should not be more than 10 years old
- ◆ Incorrect anchorage point used – some people mistakenly use the luggage/cargo point. (Refer to your car owners manual for correct positioning.)
- ◆ Harness twisted
- ◆ Harness height incorrect
- ◆ Harness frayed
- ◆ Seatbelts not threaded through correctly or not threaded at all
- ◆ Harness incorrectly fitted

A big thank you should go to the management and staff of Indooroopilly Shopping Centre and our sponsor of the day NRMA Insurance.

For further information please contact Kidsafe QLD on 3854 1829.

**child safety is no accident**

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