

Executive Officer Report

Welcome to our Winter Edition of Kidsafe News, QLD. In this edition we have covered some topics that we hope you find interesting and helpful. In particular we have information on child restraints and their correct usage, as well as information on the new legislation for smoke alarms. From the 1st July it will be mandatory for all homes in Queensland to have a smoke alarm. We hope you enjoy our first edition of the newsletter and look forward to receiving any comments or feedback.

Robyn Allen Executive Officer

Kidsafe QLD Services

- ◆ Child Car restraint fitting and checking service
- ◆ Baby capsule & child car restraint hire service
- ◆ Child Car Restraint information service
- ◆ Child Safety Demonstration House Tours
- ◆ Kidsafe QLD resource and information centre
- ◆ Child Safety products for sale
- ◆ Fact sheets available on the website

Kidsafe QLD Services

Open 9am – 3 pm, Monday to Friday
Also open the 1st Monday of each month
until 7.30pm.

Events

Pregnancy, babies and children's expo

Over 15000 people visited the expo over the 3 days. Staff at the Kidsafe stand were kept busy with queries about child safety. As part of our child safety promotion at the Expo we were running a competition with two Pegasus Booster Seats as prizes. These were kindly donated by NRMA Insurance and Safe-n-Sound (Britax Child Care Products).

Upcoming Conferences

Infants, Children & Young People & Road Safety Conference—2-3 Aug (Sydney).

For more information visit www.acrs.org.au.

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Wake up to smoke alarms

Smoke alarms are devices that detect smoke and sound an alarm. When you go to sleep, your sense of smell also goes to sleep. If there is a fire, toxic fumes may overcome you before you wake and become aware of the fire.



If your home was built before 1 July 1997, and you don't already have smoke alarms installed, you will need to buy and install smoke alarms in accordance with Australian Standards. If your home was built after 1997, it should have 240 volt (hard-wired) smoke alarms installed at the time it was built.

What type of smoke alarm is needed?

Your protection against fire increases with the quality and type of smoke alarm that is installed. It is recommended that property owners consider installing smoke alarms that are more reliable than the basic alarm.

For more information visit: www.fire.qld.gov.au or phone 1300 369 003.

Child Car Restraint Information

Recently there has been much publicity about the correct use of child restraints and in particular child harnesses. The media coverage has resulted in much confusion for parents and carers.

Research has shown that a child should be restrained in an appropriate restraint until the age of at least 7 years. Children are much better protected in the event of a vehicle crash if they are in a correctly fitted and adjusted child restraint, suitable for their weight, height and age.

When choosing a restraint you need to ensure the restraint suits your child, car and individual needs. In particular, the size of the seating positions (space between the seatbelt and it's connection), and the distance between the back of the front seats and the back of the rear seat (especially for infant seats).

Infants from birth up to 8-9kg in weight and at least 6 months old are better protected in an accident in a rear facing restraint. Some restraints will take infants up to 12kg in a rear facing position. Babies should be kept in rear facing for as long as possible.

After rearward facing a toddler will be accommodated in a forward facing restraint until either approx 3 1/2-4 years or 18kgs after which they then move to a booster seat.

Older children weighing from 14kgs-26kgs (from approx 3.5—4 years to 7 years) can then use a high back booster seat. Added protection can be gained with the use of a child safety harness. These are different harnesses available depending on the restraint in use. To be effective in an accident harnesses must be fitted correctly with the adult seat belt placed firmly across the child's lower hips and the harness adjusted so it sits flat against the child's torso.

As a guide to know when your child is ready to move from one restraint to the next stage there are a number of points to consider:

- ◆ Height—is the **child's eye level** above the top of the restraint or are the shoulder straps more than 25 mm below the child's shoulder.
- ◆ Weight—is the child within the weight suggested for the restraint.
- ◆ Age—is the child within the age recommendation for the restraint.

Free car restraint checking day - Westfield Chermshire.

On Thursday 26th April staff from Kidsafe QLD and NRMA, conducted free child car restraints checks for customers at Westfield Chermshire.

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

The event was well received, and a big thank you should go to the staff and management of Westfield Chermshire 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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