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19 October 2015

Vedrana Trisic
A/Committee Manager
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Trisic,

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In giving evidence before the Committee, Mr Briant undertook to provide additional information regarding road crash injury databases in other jurisdictions. Please find below our response to the following question by Ms Eleni Petinos:

“Are you aware of any other jurisdictions that have an injury database?”

IPWEA (NSW) response:

Accurate, timely and complete road crash and trauma data is critical for local government as well as other road safety agencies in introducing changes that are evidence-based. This includes proper allocations of funding for road improvements and development of countermeasure (such as public education campaigns) to prevent road crashes. As such, IPWEA (NSW), along with other road safety stakeholders, has lobbied for improvements to the collection and dissemination of road crash data for many years. The issue has been investigated at a number of previous government inquiries into road safety across Australia.

As part of IPWEA's submission to the *2015 Staysafe Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety*, we recommended the establishment of a national dataset on injury numbers for all vulnerable road users. At present, there is a strong focus on fatalities in Australia. Monitoring road fatalities is important as they have significant social and economic impacts upon communities. However, focusing on fatality crashes may be leading to a biased view on motorcycle safety issues because it relies on a relatively small statistical group. Injury crashes represent a much larger statistical group as there were 2,612 motorcyclists injured on NSW roads in 2013 (the latest year for which a full set of crash data is available).

There is a national database that provides details on road transport crash fatalities in Australia as reported by the police each month to the State and Territory road safety authorities. The database is maintained by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE). BITRE is part of the Policy and Research Division of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. However, there is no national database on the number of road crash injuries or injury crashes including motorcycle crashes. This inhibits the ability of policy makers and researchers to make comparisons between jurisdictions, develop benchmarks and, importantly, to measure progress on road safety.

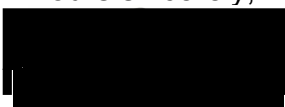
Injury data is collected by Police and Road Authorities across all jurisdictions in Australia. While IPWEA (NSW) has raised concerns regarding the accuracy and timeliness of injury data collected, simply combining the crash injury reports from the different jurisdictions would represent an improvement on what is available at present. In New Zealand, for example, the NZ Transport Agency maintains records for both injury and non-injury crashes dating back to the year 2000. Each crash is identifiable by local body area and has a geographic coordinate for import into geospatial systems¹. Similarly, the Department of Transport also makes available statistics on road casualties in Great Britain via its website² as does the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in the United States (US)³.

Unfortunately, it is mostly high-income countries that have systems capable of providing high quality measurements of the incidence of fatal and non-fatal injuries. A global study conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) concluded that official statistics in most low-middle income countries severely underreported road crash injuries⁴. It is estimated that between 20 to 50 million people suffer non-fatal injuries every year with many incurring a disability as a result of their injury.

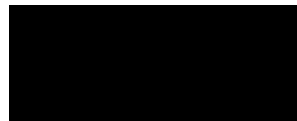
We therefore reiterate the importance of maintaining a national injury database that would logically be maintained and funded by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics as an extension of its role in maintaining the national database on road transport crash fatalities in Australia.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mick Savage on tel: 8267 3000 or e: mick.savage@ipwea.org in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mick Savage
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IPWEA NSW



David Briant
Research & Policy Officer
IPWEA NSW

¹ NZ Transport Agency, 2015, *Crash data for all New Zealand 2000 onwards*.

<<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/crash-analysis-system-data/index.html>>.

² Department for Transport, 2015, *Road accidents and safety statistics*.

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics>>.

³ NHTSA, 2015, *Data*. <<http://www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA>>.

⁴ WHO, 2015, *Road traffic injuries*. <<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs358/en/>>.