



MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER REQUESTS INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Minister for Roads, the Hon Michael Daley MP has asked the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) to investigate, as a matter of urgency, this year's rise in pedestrian fatalities. The terms of reference are attached.

The inquiry is being conducted in the context of a general rise in the number of fatalities and serious injuries on NSW roads in 2009, with a significant proportion of this increase relating to pedestrians.

In announcing the inquiry, the Chair of the Staysafe Committee, Mr Geoff Corrigan MP, Member for Camden, said: "While there has been a downward trend in pedestrian fatalities from 2004 to 2008, according to preliminary figures over the past four months there have been 28 pedestrians killed, with twelve occurring during April alone. This compares with 13 fatalities for the comparable period last year. Of the 28 fatalities, a greater number have been young pedestrians killed on metropolitan roads".

"Due to the serious nature of the recent increase in pedestrian deaths and in order to assist the Government in responding to this critical road safety issue, the Committee will pursue the inquiry immediately and give it priority over its other current investigations, which include an examination of heavy vehicle safety", Mr Corrigan continued.

Submissions are requested by 19 June 2009, anticipating the calling of further evidence at public hearings to be conducted shortly thereafter.

All written submissions should be forwarded to: The Staysafe Committee, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000. Alternatively, submissions may be submitted electronically to: staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Committee website at <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe> or by contacting Mr Geoff Corrigan, Chairman, on (02) 4655 3333 or Mr Bjarne Nordin, Senior Committee Officer, on (02) 9230 2843.

20 May 2009