

**INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
(MINISTERIAL REFERENCE)**

Organisation: Private Citizen
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Date Received: 25/05/2009

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16 Del Rio Drive
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25 May 2009

Mr Geoff Corrigan, M.P.
Chair, Staysafe Committee
staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Corrigan,

Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety

I wish to make the following submission into the above Pedestrian Safety inquiry:

The speed limit has been decreased from 60 km/m to 50 km/h in urban areas primarily for the safety of pedestrians. This has resulted in fewer and less severe injuries to pedestrians, however it has not addressed the primary cause of pedestrian accidents with motor vehicles.

Considering the fact the statistics report that 75 per cent of pedestrian accidents are the direct fault of the pedestrian themselves I see that any further remedial action to redress this must therefore be aimed directly at the pedestrian themselves.

This would take the same action that road safety experts do for the motorist – more policing, meaning police to start issuing fines to pedestrians in the same manner they do to motorists.

Some years ago there used to be a “pedestrian week” where police made an all out effort to issue infringement notices to pedestrians for one week. In recent years this practice has been discontinued. The practice had a short-term effect for pedestrian behaviour.

I believe that to truly have lasting and major impact the pedestrian fines need to be increased substantially, particularly for repeat offenders. Then they need to be policed with the same diligence that police have for motorists.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Ellis, J.P.
Vice President, Central Coast Commuters Association