

INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (MINISTERIAL REFERENCE)

Organisation: NSW Police Force
Name: Commissioner Andrew Scipione
Position: Commissioner
Telephone: (02) 8263 6599
Date Received: 26/06/2009

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NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Mr Geoff Corrigan MP
Chair
Staysafe Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Corrigan,

I refer to your letter dated 13 May 2009 (Ref STC 497), inviting a submission by the NSW Police Force to the Staysafe Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety.

The NSW Police Force works closely with The Centre for Road Safety, Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), to develop measures to address the issue of Pedestrian Safety. I understand that a comprehensive submission containing detailed statistical analysis will be provided to the Inquiry by The Centre for Road Safety.

The formal NSW Police Force response to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry is detailed below.

a) Short and long term trends in pedestrian injuries and fatalities in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas;

In 2006 there were 496 road fatalities and 72 were pedestrians representing 14.5 per cent of the total number of road fatalities. In 2007 there were 435 road fatalities and 68 were pedestrians representing 15.6 per cent of the total number of road fatalities. In 2008 there were 398 road fatalities and 52 were pedestrians representing 13 per cent of the total number of road fatalities. From 1 January – 27 May 2009, there have been 191 road fatalities and 28 were pedestrians representing 14.6 per cent of the total number of road fatalities.

Further details are provided in the attached document titled *“Pedestrian Fatalities 1/1/2006 – 27/5/2009”*.

b) Underlying causes of pedestrian injuries and fatalities;

A number of pedestrian fatalities are attributable to alcohol impairment on the part of the pedestrian. As there are a number of post mortem findings which are yet to be finalised by the Coroner, the Traffic Services Branch, NSW Police Force, is unable to provide complete statistics in relation to fatalities.

There are currently seven alcohol related crashes involving pedestrians, one identified as possible alcohol related, one speed related, three possible self harm incidents and eleven attributable to pedestrian factors. Four of the crashes have multiple factors. (source: Traffic Services Branch Fatal Database, up to and including data to 31 May 2009).

c) The incidence of drivers leaving the scene of the accident after hitting pedestrians;

The table below indicates the number of pedestrian 'fail to stop' crashes by year for 2006, 2007 and 2008 compared to the total number of crashes and includes those crashes which would involve drivers, riders, and pedal cyclists.

Year	Pedestrian Fail To Stops	Total Major Traffic Crashes	Percentage
2008	538	66,390	0.81%
2007	575	69,912	0.82%
2006	616	69,403	0.89%

d) Effectiveness of recent measures to address pedestrian safety;

The Traffic Services Branch, NSW Police Force, works closely with The Centre For Road Safety, RTA, on measures to address pedestrian safety utilising enforcement based strategies. A comprehensive response will be provided by The Centre for Road Safety.

e) Additional strategies to increase pedestrian safety;

There are a number of corporate and local strategies employed by the NSW Police Force to increase pedestrian safety. Corporate measures include:

- A daily requirement for all Highway Patrol members to provide one hour enforcement of 40km/h school zones in the morning and afternoon. This corporate strategy enhances vulnerable road user safety through the enforcement of legislation in respect of school zone speeding and parking offences; and
- A launch by the NSW Police Force in August 2008 of an award-winning advertising campaign warning pedestrians of the dangers of crossing roads whilst wearing headphones or using other devices that cause distraction. Further details of this award are provided in the attached document titled **"Pedestrians warned to tune in to traffic"** (source – Police Weekly, Volume 20, Number 29, 11 August 2008).

At a local level Police from Local Area Commands address issues through:

- Working with Local Council Road Safety officers to identify and address vulnerable road user safety issues, including pedestrians;
- Using local media opportunities to raise public awareness of pedestrian safety;
- Promoting alternative transport strategies such as the RTA "Snow Bus" that has safely transported some 42,000 patrons to snowfield accommodation in its 5 years of operation;
- Actively participating in forums such as Local Government Traffic Committees, whose membership includes Council, RTA, Police, and local Members of Parliament, and with other government agencies to improve road

- environment safety through the use of engineering treatments such as grade separation, safety fencing, pedestrian crossings and traffic islands; and
- Working with local businesses, as part of Crime Prevention Partnerships, on local initiatives to improve street and pavement lighting and altering pedestrian movements, particularly from licensed premises to prevent patrons from “spilling out” onto the road.

f) The current emphasis placed on pedestrian road users as part of land use policies and in the planning and management of the road system;

The NSW Police Force cannot provide comment.

g) Pedestrian safety issues and strategies in other jurisdictions;

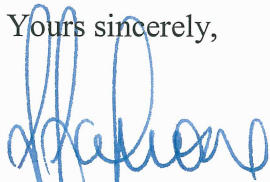
The NSW Police Force cannot provide comment.

h) Any other related matters.

There are no other matters that the NSW Police Force wishes to comment on.

Should the Staysafe Committee have any questions about the issues raised the NSW Police Force contact is Assistant Commissioner John Hartley, Commander, Traffic Services Branch. Assistant Commissioner Hartley can be contacted on (02) 9689 7225.

Yours sincerely,



A P Scipione APM
Commissioner of Police

24 JUN 2009

Pedestrian Fatalities 1/1/2006 – 27/5/2009

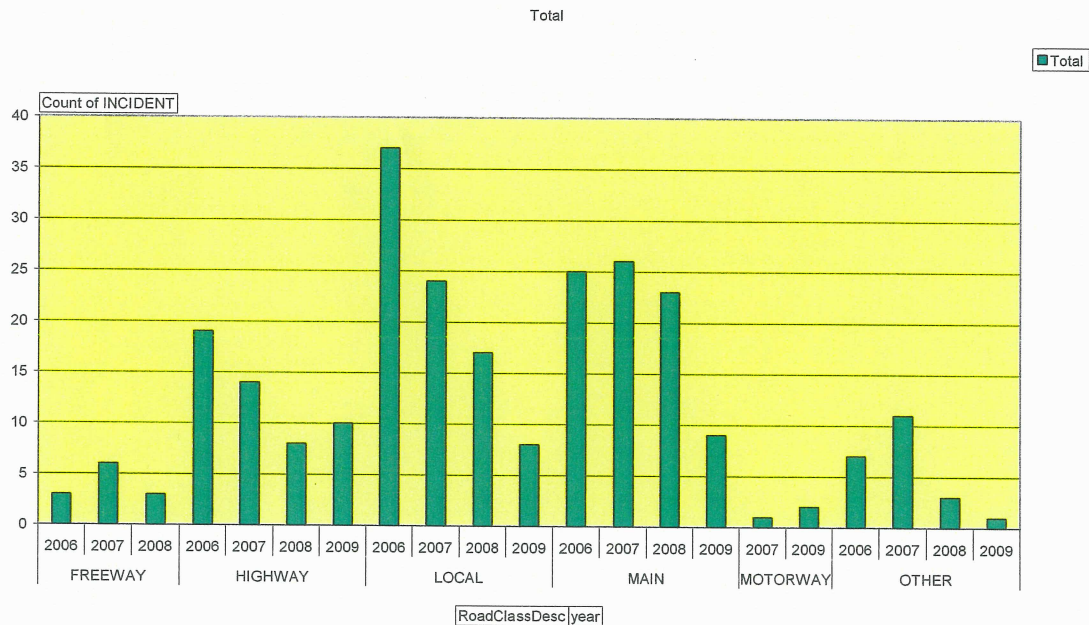
In 2006 there were 72/496 pedestrian fatalities

In 2007 there were 68/435 pedestrian fatalities

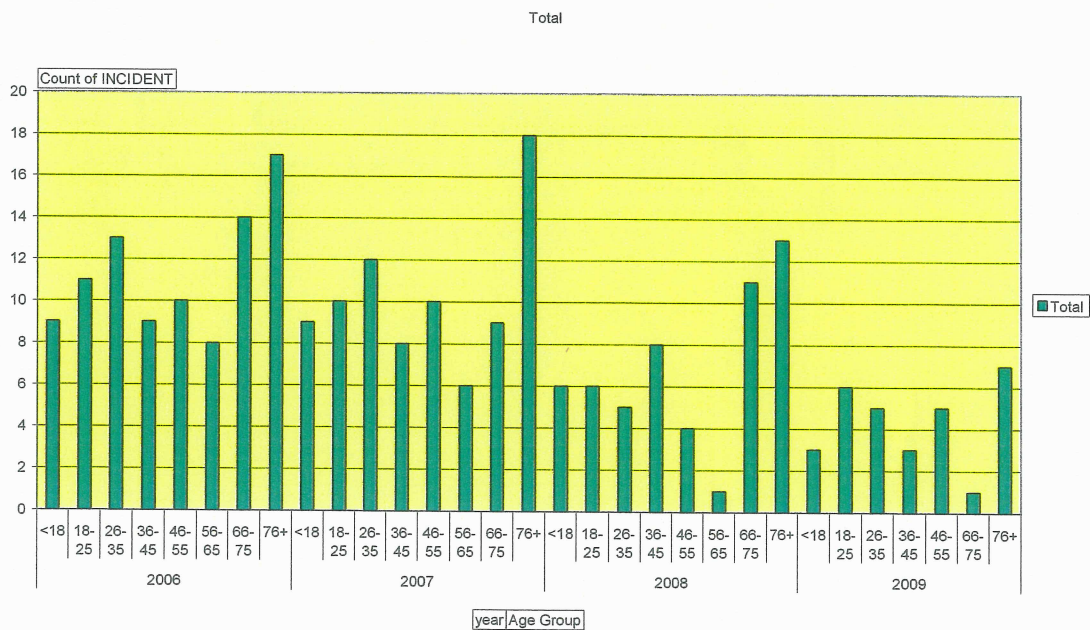
In 2008 there were 52/398 pedestrian fatalities

In 2009 up to 27/5/2009 there were 28/191 pedestrian fatalities

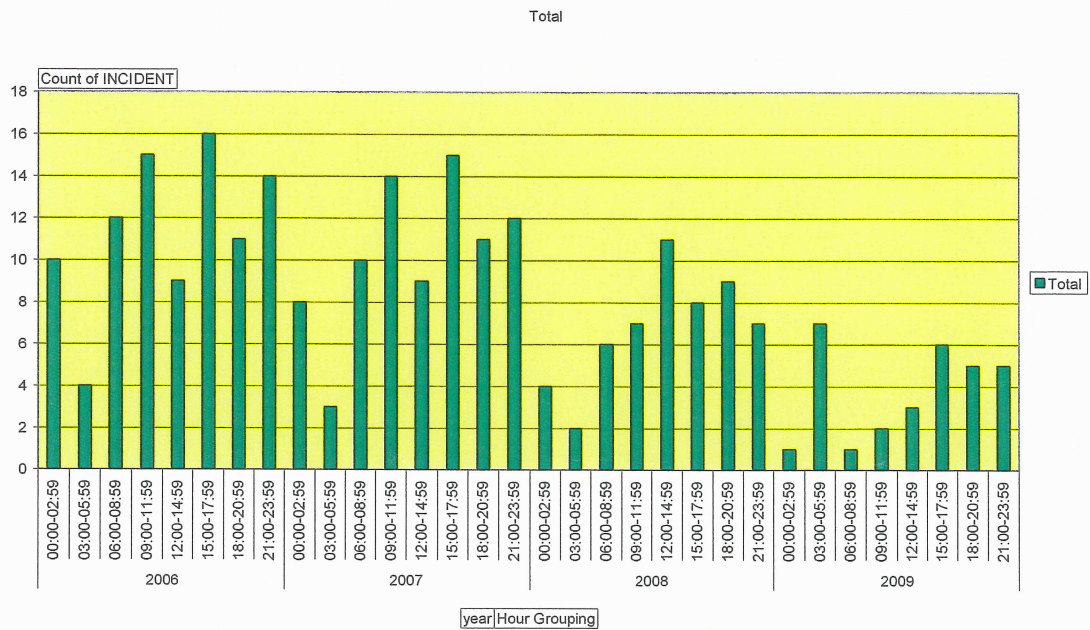
Road Types Where Pedestrian fatalities have occurred



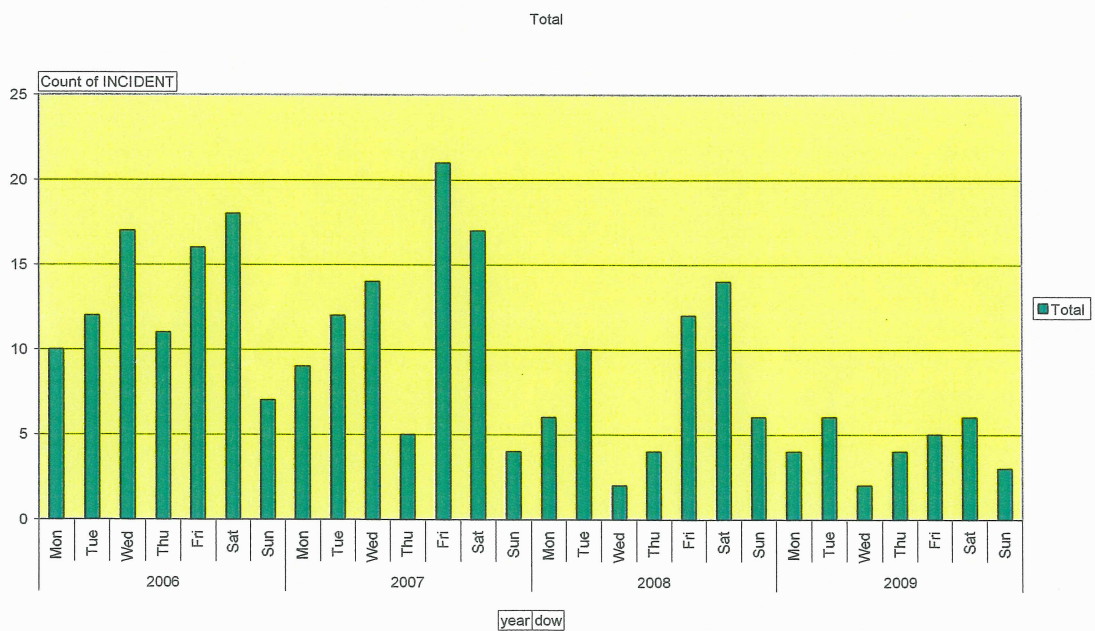
Age Groups of Deceased Pedestrians



Times of Pedestrian Fatal



Day of Pedestrian Fatal





Pedestrians warned to tune in to traffic

The NSW Police Force has launched a striking new advertising campaign warning pedestrians to limit distractions when crossing the road and to 'watch for cars when wearing headphones'.

Recent growth in the use of portable media players and mobile phone usage has sparked a need for greater awareness among both pedestrians and motorists to ensure these new technologies don't lead to a rise in pedestrian accidents.

"Although there has been no significant increase in pedestrian incidents to date, the growth and uptake of these new technologies is a potential problem. People need to be aware of the impact of these new technologies and the distractions they create – for both pedestrians and motorists alike," said Commander of Traffic Services, Ch Supt John Hartley.

With its striking ads, the campaign is sure to turn heads – hopefully right, left and right again. Members of the public are advised to be alert when crossing

the road and to exercise caution when using mobile phones and portable media players. Such technologies pose a potential safety risk as they can distract pedestrians from surrounding environments and block out warning sounds.

"The message to pedestrians is never cross a road while using headphones or mobile phones," Ch Supt Hartley said.

"Pedestrians need to take responsibility for their own safety by using crossings, obeying road rules and being aware of their surroundings. Parents need to educate and speak to their children about the potential safety impacts of these new technologies.

"Extra caution should be exercised in areas of high vehicle and pedestrian concentration such as near train stations, bus stops and in CBD areas," he said.

In 2007, almost 80 pedestrians across the state died as a result of collisions with cars.

Motorists are warned not to use mobile phones or portable listening devices while driving, unless the vehicle is fitted with a hands free device. Motorists are also advised to use extra caution in areas of high vehicle or pedestrian concentration because of the growing use of portable media players and mobile phones by pedestrians.

The NSW Police Force Pedestrian Campaign has won the prestigious Cannes Bronze Lion Award. The campaign, which was launched in Sydney, won the public health and safety division of the outdoor category at the 2008 Cannes International Advertising Festival.

