

INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (MINISTERIAL REFERENCE)

Organisation: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development
& Local Government

Name: Mr Andrew Wilson

Position: Executive Director, Infrastructure & Surface Transport Policy

Telephone: (02) 6274 7185

Date Received: 15/06/2009

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

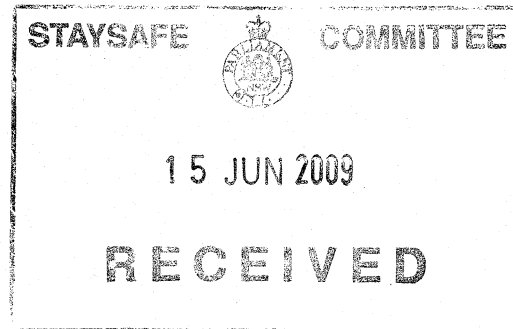


Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government**

File Reference: 03946-2009

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



Dear Mr Corrigan

Thank you for your letter dated 13 May 2009 to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, about the Staysafe Committee (the Committee) inquiry into pedestrian safety. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) has considered the Committee's request for a submission and is pleased to provide the attached information relating to items (a) and (e) of the terms of reference. Should you have any queries about this material, please contact Mr John Goldsworthy in the Department's Road Safety Branch on telephone 02 6274 7185.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilson
Executive Director
Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy

12 June 2009

Enc

Terms of reference (a): Short and long term trends in pedestrian injuries and fatalities in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas¹

Pedestrian deaths in Australia and NSW

Key points

- Over the last five years (to May 2009), pedestrian deaths have accounted for 13.7% of all road deaths nationally and 15.4% of road deaths in NSW.
- In the latest 12 month period (ending May 2009), pedestrian deaths accounted for 13.2% of national fatalities and 13.6% of deaths in NSW .
- Annual statistics for the last five years show that pedestrian fatalities in NSW have generally declined in both absolute numbers and as a proportion of total road deaths.
- In the first five months of 2009, there were 28 pedestrian deaths in NSW. This was significantly more than the 19 deaths recorded during the same period in 2008, but similar to the 2007 number (29 deaths).

Count of deaths by road user, YE May — Australia

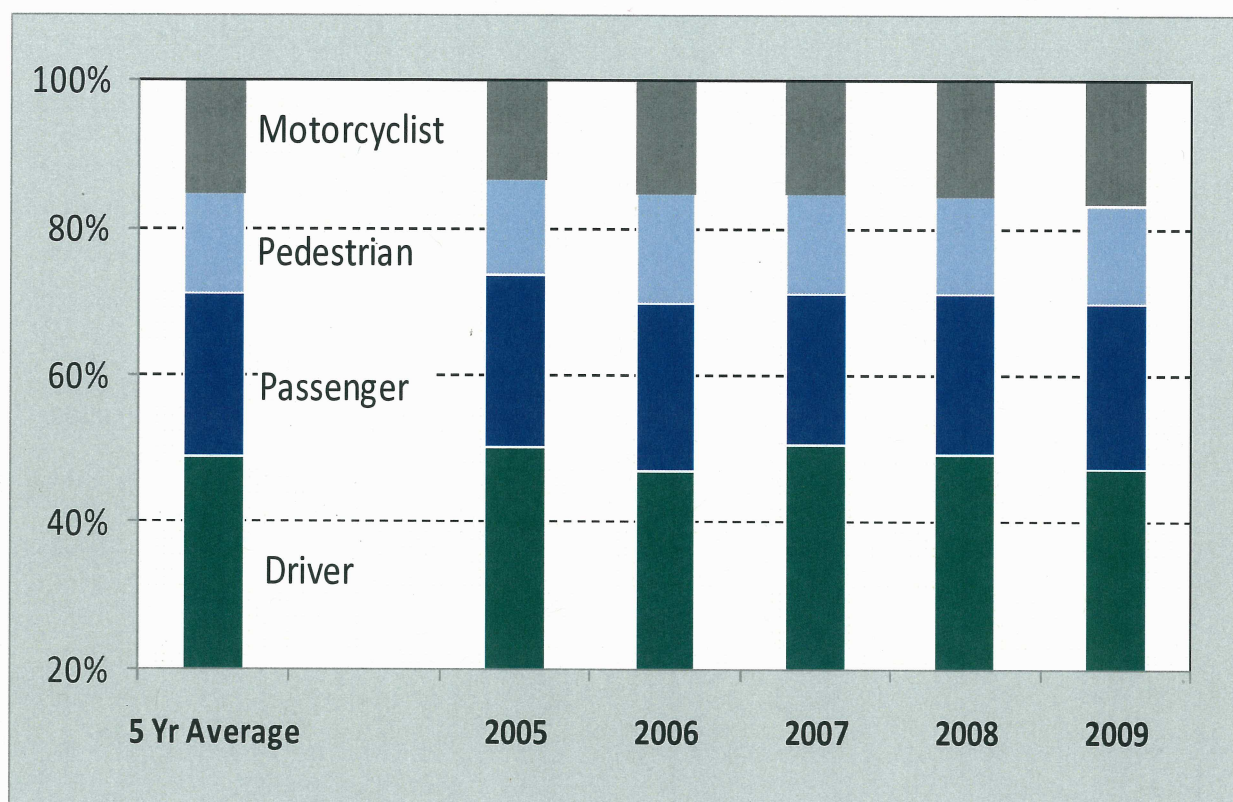
YE May	Driver	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcyclist	Bicyclist	Total
2005	775	359	199	205	34	1,572
2006	748	363	237	243	43	1,634
2007	787	320	213	239	43	1,602
2008	728	321	195	231	29	1,504
2009	721	339	205	255	35	1,555

Count of deaths by road user, YE May — NSW

YE May	Driver	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcyclist	Bicyclist	Total
2005	243	101	83	66	11	504
2006	239	121	93	66	14	533
2007	229	87	63	57	8	444
2008	205	62	58	58	11	394
2009	230	85	61	59	12	447

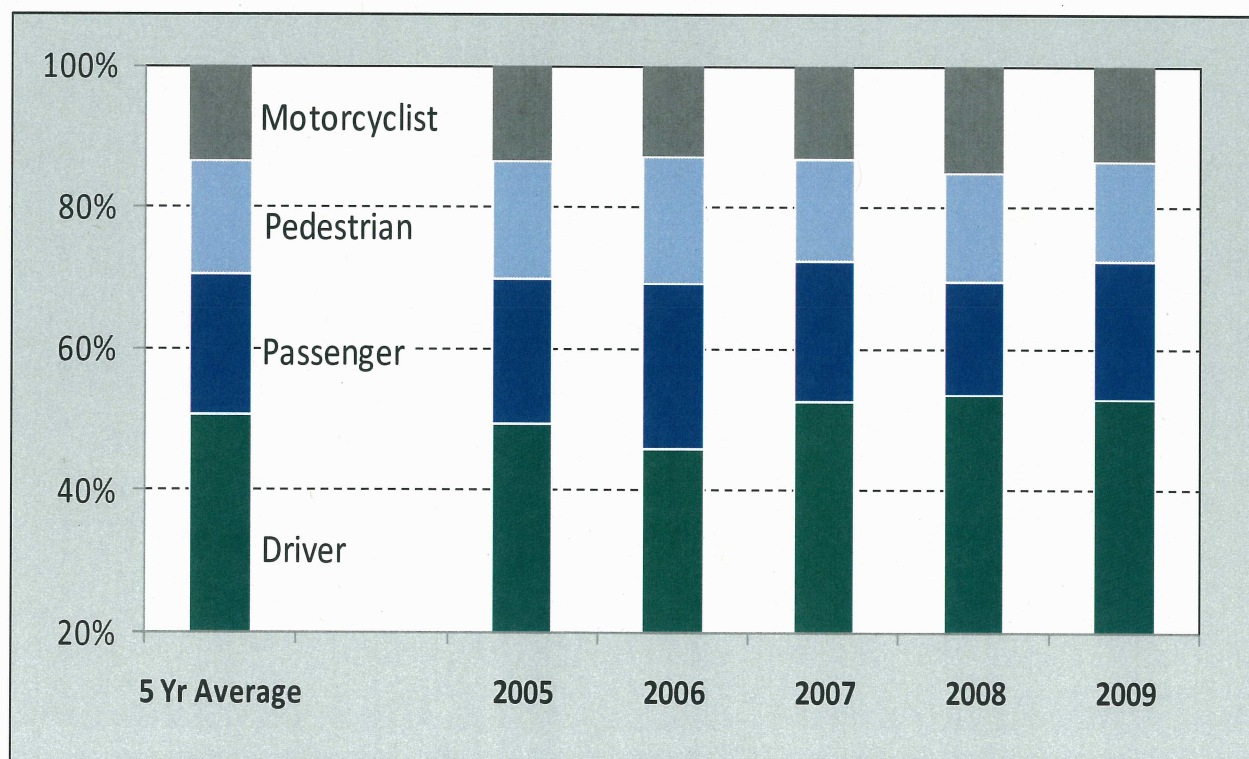
¹ This information is extracted from the Department's Australian Road Deaths Database, which is compiled from data supplied each month by state and territory road safety authorities. The database does not contain information about injuries or about the regional location of crashes. Online access to the database is available from the Department's website at: <www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/>.

Share* of deaths by road user, YE May — Australia



* excludes cyclists

Share* of deaths by road user, YE May — NSW

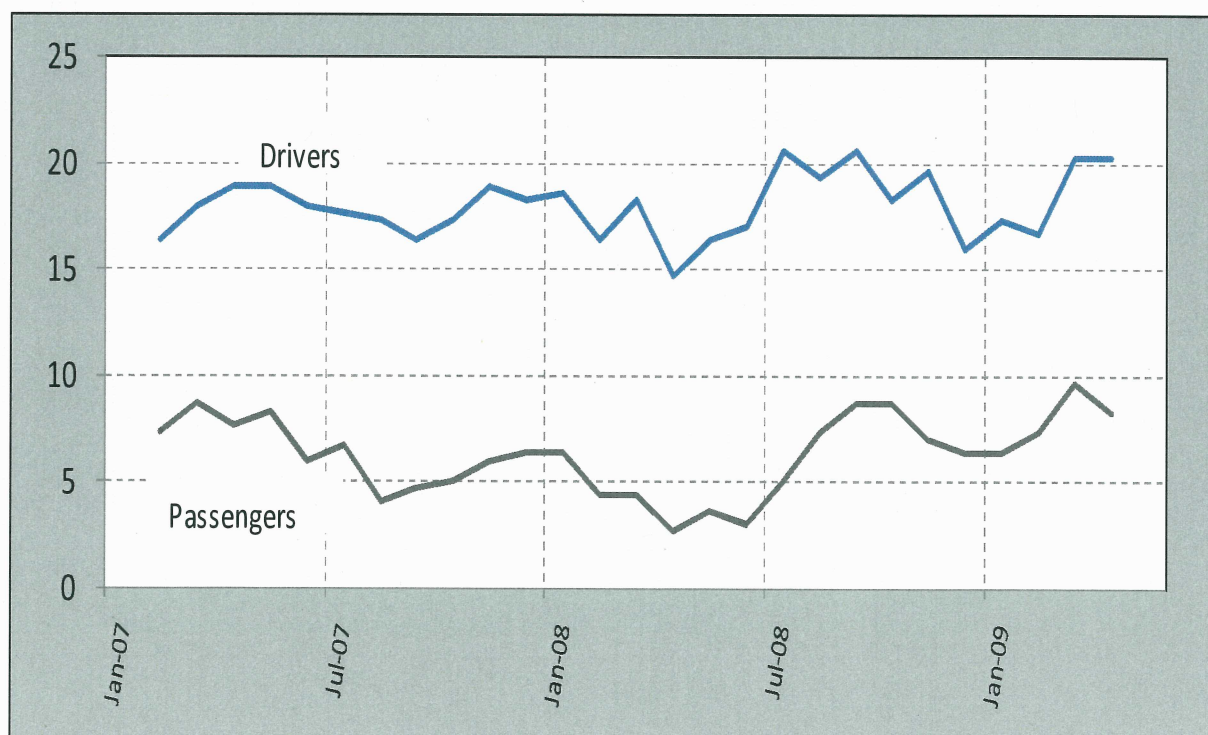
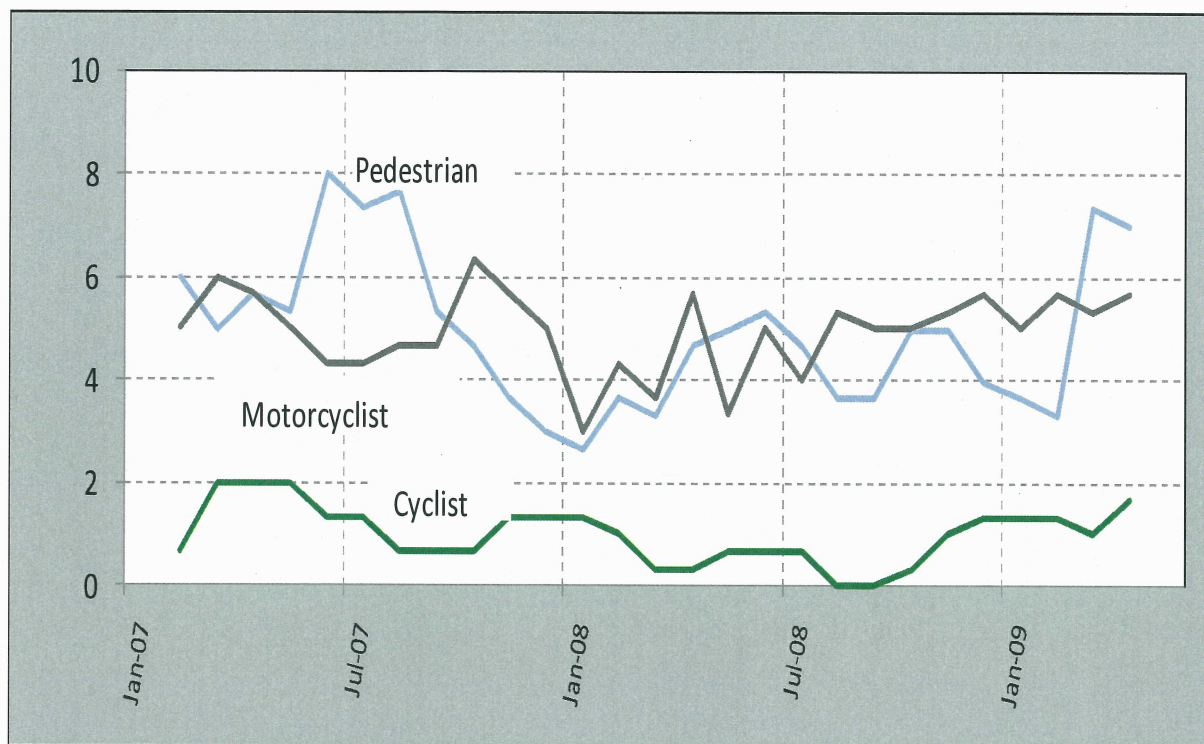


* excludes cyclists

Monthly count of deaths by road user, 2007-2009 — NSW

Month	Driver	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcyclist	Bicyclist	Total
Jan-07	17	6	7	4	0	34
Feb-07	14	6	5	5	0	30
Mar-07	18	10	6	6	2	42
Apr-07	22	10	4	7	4	47
May-07	17	3	7	4	0	31
Jun-07	18	12	5	4	2	41
Jul-07	19	3	12	5	2	41
Aug-07	16	5	5	4	0	30
Sep-07	17	4	6	5	0	32
Oct-07	16	5	5	5	2	33
Nov-07	19	6	3	9	0	37
Dec-07	22	7	3	3	2	37
Jan-08	14	6	3	3	2	28
Feb-08	20	6	2	3	0	31
Mar-08	15	1	6	7	1	30
Apr-08	20	6	2	1	0	29
May-08	9	1	6	9	0	25
Jun-08	20	4	7	0	2	33
Jul-08	22	4	3	6	0	35
Aug-08	20	7	4	6	0	37
Sep-08	16	11	4	4	0	35
Oct-08	26	8	3	5	0	42
Nov-08	13	7	8	6	1	36
Dec-08	20	6	4	5	2	37
Jan-09	15	6	0	6	1	28
Feb-09	17	7	7	4	1	36
Mar-09	18	9	3	7	2	39
Apr-09	26	13	12	5	0	56
May-09	17	3	6	5	3	34

Monthly deaths (smoothed), 2007-2009 — NSW



Global Technical Regulation 9 on pedestrian safety

In November 2008, the United Nations established a new Global Technical Regulation (GTR) 9 on pedestrian safety. Australia provided input to the development of the text through the International Harmonized Research Activities (IHRA) program and subsequently voted for the final regulation. Under the UN 1998 Agreement, Australia must advise the UN within a year whether it intends to adopt any or all of the requirements domestically.

GTR 9 specifies performance requirements for bonnet tops, front wings (mudguards), and front bumpers, in order to reduce injuries when the vehicle collides with a pedestrian or other vulnerable road user. It broadly applies to passenger cars, Sports Utility Vehicles, light vans and trucks, and light buses.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has commenced the review process and has commissioned some research into the current performance of the fleet. A Regulation Impact Statement is expected to be released for public comment later in the year.

As with any vehicle safety initiative in Australia, there are a number of options that need to be examined. These include both non-regulatory and/or regulatory means such as the use of market forces, manufacturers' commitments, codes of practice, public education campaigns, fleet purchasing policies and regulation through the Australian Design Rules.