

SECOND REVIEW OF THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT AUTHORITY

Organisation: Youthsafe
Name: Ms Anne Deans
Position: Executive Officer
Date received: 6/05/2009



4 May 2009

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC

Chair, Standing Committee on Law and Justice

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Robertson,

Re: Second review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority

Thank you for inviting Youthsafe to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice in relation to the 'Second review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA) under section 68 of the *Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Act 2006*.

Youthsafe, is a not for profit organisation and the peak body in NSW for prevention of serious injury in young people (aged 15 to 25 years).

Although Youthsafe's role and that of the LTCSA are at different ends of the injury management spectrum, we consider it is important to understand serious injury in young people who are participants in the scheme and factors that contributed to their injuries in order to better address prevention in the first instance.

Youthsafe also recognises the importance of young people who have experienced serious injury leading lives that are as normal as possible, including participating in work and recreational activities where possible. This generally involves some form of road transport. Therefore addressing risks of further road trauma for these young people is an additional area of interest for Youthsafe.

It is noted that in the 2007/08 annual report of the LTCSA the age group with the highest representation amongst participants in the scheme is 16 to 25 years. This reinforces the fact that young people continue to be over represented in road trauma statistics and road trauma remains a major cause of death and disability amongst young people, particularly young males.

Youthsafe commends the role of the LTCSA and important developments over the last few years in managing serious injury due to road trauma, including the introduction of no fault provisions. This has been an area of significant need.

Youthsafe is very familiar with a range of factors that contribute to increased risk of injury in young people on the roads, including the significance of adolescent brain development, inexperience and new levels of independence and responsibility that come with starting to drive. Nevertheless we would welcome any additional insights into factors contributing to road trauma that may be gained from the experience of young participants in the

scheme. Youthsafe would also be willing to provide input into secondary prevention measures that the LTCSA may consider to assist in reducing risks of further road trauma in young participants in the scheme.

I look forward to the outcome of the review. Please contact me if you would like further information or discussion about the issues raised. My contact details are as follows:

Anne Deans – Chief Executive, Youthsafe

Website: www.youthsafe.org

Yours sincerely

Anne Deans

Chief Executive

Youthsafe