

Submission

No 8

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS AUTHORITY
AND THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS COUNCIL - SEVENTH
REVIEW**

Organisation: The George Institute for International Health
Name: Professor Mark Stevenson
Position: Director, Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Division
Telephone: 9657 0365
Date Received: 25/01/2006

Theme:

Summary:



THE GEORGE INSTITUTE

for International Health

The George Institute ABN 90 085 953 331

Professor Mark Stevenson
Professor of Injury Prevention
The University of Sydney

Level 24
207 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box M201 Missenden Road
Sydney NSW 2050 Australia

Telephone +61 2 9657 0365
Facsimile +61 2 9657 0301
mstevenson@thegeorgeinstitute.org
www.thegeorgeinstitute.org

17th January 2006

Legislative Council
GENERAL PURPOSE
STANDING COMMITTEES

25 JAN 2006

RECEIVED

Dr. Michael Phillips
Principal Council Officer
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street NSW 2000

RECEIVED

30 JAN 2006

6-1118/27-03

Dear Dr Phillips

Re: Seventh Review of the Motor Accidents Authority/Motor Accident Council

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the abovementioned review. As a not-for-profit medical research institute involved in road-safety research, we have particular interest in the Motor Accident Authority's (MAA) role in dealing with serious and catastrophic injuries and its commitment to supporting an agenda of road safety research.

The MAA have, and will continue to play, an important role in supporting both road safety research and road safety programs, particularly those targeting young people. In this role, we would recommend that the MAA adopts a more rigorous evaluation of its initiatives to ensure the research grants and programs deliver to set objectives. As well, in order to achieve outcomes such as increased awareness, a change in attitude or reductions in the incidence of road trauma, it is imperative that both the road safety research grants and projects need to receive greater levels of funding and have longer timeframes in which to deliver; this is not the current situation with the programs and, to some extent, the research grants.

We are aware that the MAA Grants Program was reviewed in 2004 and that a plan will be announced in 2005/2006. However, we would urge the MAA to place greater emphasis on research that focuses attention more on the prevention spectrum of motor vehicle-related trauma. As well, with a current dearth of qualified road safety researchers, we would encourage the MAA to support a scheme for the development of young researchers.

It is imperative that the MAA implements cost effective programs that are based on sound evidence. Although it is not clear what quantum of the CTP insurance is allocated to road-safety research, we believe that in order to implement evidence-based programs, it would be necessary for the MAA to increase the quantum allocated to research. This would certainly contribute to MAA meeting its key role of supporting injury prevention in this state.

Finally, I am more than happy to provide further discussion of the points raised above. Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review.

Yours sincerely

Professor Mark Stevenson
Director, Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Division

Cc: Profs Norton and McMahon
Affiliated with



The University of Sydney