

Submission

No 4

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

Organisation: Youthsafe
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Theme:

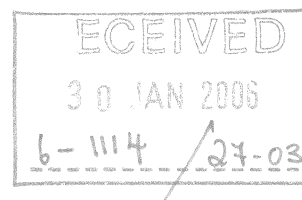
Summary:



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13 January 2006

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on Law and Justice
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Robertson,

Re: **Seventh Review of the exercise of the functions of the MAA and the MAC**
– invitation to participate.

Thank you for your invitation to Youthsafe to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice in relation to the Seventh Review of the exercise of the functions of the MAA and the MAC under section 210 of the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*.

Youthsafe, as a not for profit organisation involved in preventing serious injury in young people (aged 15 to 25 years), is primarily interested in the road safety and injury management functions of the MAA. This is particularly so given the over representation of young people in road trauma statistics and the fact that road trauma is a major cause of death and disability amongst young people.

As road trauma resulting in injury is the very reason for the existence of the scheme in the first instance, it is imperative that there should be a focus on the MAA functions related to injury prevention and injury management and the effective implementation of these functions. MAA grants and injury management initiatives have made valuable contributions to the prevention of road trauma and rehabilitation of people injured in motor vehicle crashes in the past. Youthsafe supports an ongoing and active MAA role in these areas to ensure an impact on road safety and injury management for people injured through road trauma is maintained and indeed strengthened.

We note that an identified priority for 2005-06 is *'Review injury prevention and management programs'*.

Youthsafe strongly recommends that in the course of the review young people should be identified as a priority target group and a priority area for future MAA investment.

Youthsafe also strongly recommends that the review should recognise the importance of supporting research to establish sound evidence bases.

Youthsafe would also be keen to know of plans for the future of the *'Arrive Alive'* program and any other initiatives targeting young people, particularly in light of the review of MAA's injury prevention and management programs.

In the last few years Youthsafe has undertaken extensive work in the area of *'safe celebrating'* for young people, especially in relation to implications for safe travel home from celebrations. Socialisation is an important part of a young person's growth and development. However unplanned, unsupervised, informal partying by young people, around 15 to 18 years of age, is one of the areas posing significant risks to the safety of young people on the roads. The issue of safe alternative transport options is one that Youthsafe believes the MAA should consider supporting. Appropriate safe transport needs are variable. MAA is in a good position to support much needed research into sound, safe alternative transport options and to support implementation of measures shown to be effective. Youthsafe would be very willing to work collaboratively with the MAA on this issue.

I would be pleased to meet with you for further discussion if this would be of value, as would other appropriate representatives of Youthsafe.

Yours sincerely



Anne Deans
Executive Officer