



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
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Safety warning issued for motorised mobility scooters

A notice warning of the safe use of motorised mobility scooters has been issued by Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs Dr Craig Emerson.

“Since July 2000 there have been reports of 71 deaths in Australia directly related to accidents involving motorised mobility scooters,” Dr Emerson said.

“Tragically there have been 26 deaths in Victoria alone and more than 150 people have received hospital treatment.

“Following advice from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) I have today issued a notice warning consumers of the potential dangers associated with the use of these scooters.

“The warning is contained in a statutory notice under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and is published in the *Commonwealth Gazette*.

“While mobility scooters allow people with limited ability to maintain active, independent lifestyles these injury statistics are alarming.

“The ACCC will invite a number of key stakeholders to form a Reference Group to develop a joint national approach to problems involving motorised mobility scooters,” he said.

Due to the increase in popularity of motorised mobility scooters, the risk of associated deaths or serious injury is increasing.

People who intend to use these scooters must ensure they have the necessary physical and cognitive skills to operate and manoeuvre them safely.

Users should take care when riding a scooter and observe the following safety guidelines:

- Stay within the legal speed limit of 10 km/h.
- Be aware that taking medication or driving under the influence of alcohol may affect the user’s judgement.

- Always make sure that you are clearly visible, particularly at night or on dull days – use the lights and reflectors and install a reflective safety flag high enough to be seen by motorists.
- Wear a bicycle helmet whenever possible.
- Slow down when you are near other people, especially pedestrians and cyclists.
- Avoid stopping or driving on inclines greater than your scooter is designed for.
- Use footpaths if possible. If there are no footpaths, plan to use quieter roads. Plan your trip and avoid uneven surfaces, dips and potholes.
- Ensure if you are carrying parcels that the load will not over-balance your scooter and the parcels do not interfere with your controls or vision.

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