



Victoria Tsiolis



Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Submission No. #32
Received
Road Safety Committee

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Executive Officer
Road Safety Committee
Parliament House
East Melbourne, VIC, 3002

Ref: Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety.

As a participant of the 2011 Victorian Youth Parliament, I was a member of the Overnewton College Team that proposed to make protective clothing compulsory for all motorcyclists. The Bill proposed in the Legislative Council, Victorian State Parliament on 14 July 2011, successfully passed through the Youth Parliament of Victoria.

The Overnewton College Team understood that it was not guaranteed that protective clothing would save every motorcyclists life. However, if the bill was to become official legislation for Victoria, it will significantly reduce the amount of motorcycle deaths and injuries on Victorian Roads caused because of motorcyclists not wearing the correct clothing.

My uncle is an active motorcyclist. A few years ago, he fell victim to one of the many motorcycle accidents that form the statistics year after year. Fortunately, he survived from this tragic accident, but he did suffer from severe injuries and had to recover for a period of time in hospital. My uncle was simply riding his motorcycle, just like every other Victorian using the roads with their means of transport. He did not expect to be in an accident that day many years ago. Therefore, protective clothing must be made compulsory for all motorcyclists to protect them and prepare them for the most unexpected of circumstances. For, if motorcycle safety is not to be improved, it is feared that other motorcyclists may not be as fortunate as my uncle.

I do encourage the Parliament of Victoria, Road Safety Committee to take the opportunity and take into consideration what has been suggested from members of the Overnewton College Team from the 2011 Victorian Youth Parliament event. Various concepts were advocated in the Legislative Council chambers earlier this July from the Overnewton College Team such as possible subsidies for motorcyclists, official verification of clothing that is protective, a warning system consisting of fines and loss of demerit points and the recommendation of varieties of protective clothing that can be worn for all weather conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Tsiolis