

Submission No. #06
Received
Road Safety Committee



The Executive Officer
Road Safety Committee
Parliament House
EAST MELBOURNE

15 June 2011

RE: Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety – PILLION PASSENGERS

Dear Sir

As a former motorcyclist of several decades, now retired, I wish to submit my concerns regarding pillion passengers on motorcycles.

In 1977, one of my dearest friends was killed whilst a pillion passenger: her very first time on her friend's new 750cc motorcycle!

Living up at Rawson, a popular scenic route for motorcyclists, I cringe every time I see a passenger, clinging to the rider's waist or jacket. That's all they have; a tenuous grip between them and disaster.

I believe there is no justification or need for pillion passengers to be allowed. The very concept of permitting pillions is a very fuzzy concept steeped in tales of misadventure and tragedy.

Do you know that kids like me, albeit in the 1950's regularly 'dinked' mates and siblings on our bicycles? That practise was banned decades ago – too dangerous! You never see it now. So, why are motorcycle pillion passengers still permitted to be sit on the edge of a speeding machine with nothing but a strong hand and a riders skill to get them to their destination?

Motorcycles themselves are inherently dangerous but the fragile connection with any passengers is a recipe for continuing trauma and sadness.

Yours sincerely

Mike Irwin

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Irwin".



Email; 