

Media Release

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Victoria's vulnerable pedestrians deserve safer car parks

Mr John Eren, MLA, the Member for Lara and Chair of the Road Safety Committee announced today that: 'Over 80 pedestrians have present to a hospital annually as a result of injuries and, sadly, since 2000, eight people have died in Victorian car parks.'

The Road Safety Committee today tabled a report on Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks, reviewing the current rules and standards that apply to car parks.

'The simple fact is that in any collision between a pedestrian and a motor vehicle, even at slow speed, the pedestrian comes off second best.'

However, these statistics are based on limited data, as accurate records are not kept by the current agencies. The Committee also found that there has been a lack of focus on pedestrian safety in car parks, particularly in relation to the monitoring and reporting on pedestrian injury, meaning what data we do have is likely to be an underestimation of the true rate of injury.

Mr Eren said: 'Of particular concern to the Committee was that our more vulnerable pedestrians, the very young and the elderly, appear more at risk in a car park collision, and are also more likely to suffer serious and life-threatening injuries as a result. With Victoria's growing population we fear this situation could worsen if car park safety is not at best practice levels.'

'The Road Safety Committee has made a number of recommendations that would significantly improve pedestrian safety in car parks. The Victorian Planning Provisions should be amended to encourage the developers, designers and operators of car parks to achieve best practice in pedestrian car park safety. Our

municipalities need to be able to point to these best practices when assessing plans for new sites.

Mr Eren said: 'Best practice would include making all small to medium sized car parks Shared Zones, whereby pedestrians have the right of way over cars and vehicles have a speed limit of 10 km/h.

'Also of concern is the fact that no single agency has ownership of this issue or is monitoring whether pedestrian injuries are increasing and what countermeasures could be effective.

'We hope that the Victorian Government adopts the recommendations in this report in order to ensure that Victoria's car parks are built and operated at world's best practice for pedestrian safety.'

John Eren, MLA
Chair

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