



**Neuroscience
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2012 Australasian College of Road Safety National Conference

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9 August 2012

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Victorian family day care scheme providers' knowledge of child restraint best practice

Background
Method
Results
Discussion
Summary

Background

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Why are we looking at child restraints?

- HALF of fatalities due to unintentional injury are transport related
- 103 child passengers died in Victoria 2003-2005
- Australia-wide – between 60-70 child occupant fatalities per year

VISU, 2007
BITRE, 2010

Background

REASON WHY?

An Australian NSW case review of all child occupants involved in a motor vehicle crash between July 2002 and January 2005 found:

Suboptimal Restraint Use

- 30% of children suffered fatal or serious injury

Optimal Restraint Use

- 0 fatalities or serious injuries

Brown et al., 2005, 2006

Background

REASON WHY?

Suboptimal restraint use is comprised of:

Inappropriate use



Incorrect use



Brown & Bilston, 2009

Background

REASON WHY?

Following a 2009 NSW study it was found that:

Appropriate: 52%

Correct: 62%

Optimal: 25%

(Both appropriately and correctly restrained)

Similar results have been found in 2006 Victorian:
Low levels of self-reported appropriate restraint use

Charlton et al., 2006
Brown & Bilston, 2009

Background

LEGISLATION

In 2007 the National Transport Commission suggested mandatory use of size appropriate restraint systems for children up to the age of 7

Child Age	Current Legislation Minimum Requirements
Infant <6 months	Rear-facing restraint
Children <4 years	Forward-facing restraint (with built in harness)
Children between 4 and 7 years	Forward-facing restraint (with built in harness) OR Booster seat
Children >7 years	Booster seat OR Adult seat belt
Children >4 years	Able to use front seat If backseat is occupied and an appropriate restraint is used

Background

LEGISLATION ALONE IS NEVER ENOUGH

To maximise the rates of optimal restraint use, education programs and interventions aimed at parents of children of preschool age are needed.

- Many successful child restraint interventions delivered at child care
- Different models of child care in Australia
- Lots of attention and focus on early education centres

Keay et al., 2011; Brown et al., 2010; Oliviera et al., 2009

Background

FAMILY DAY CARE

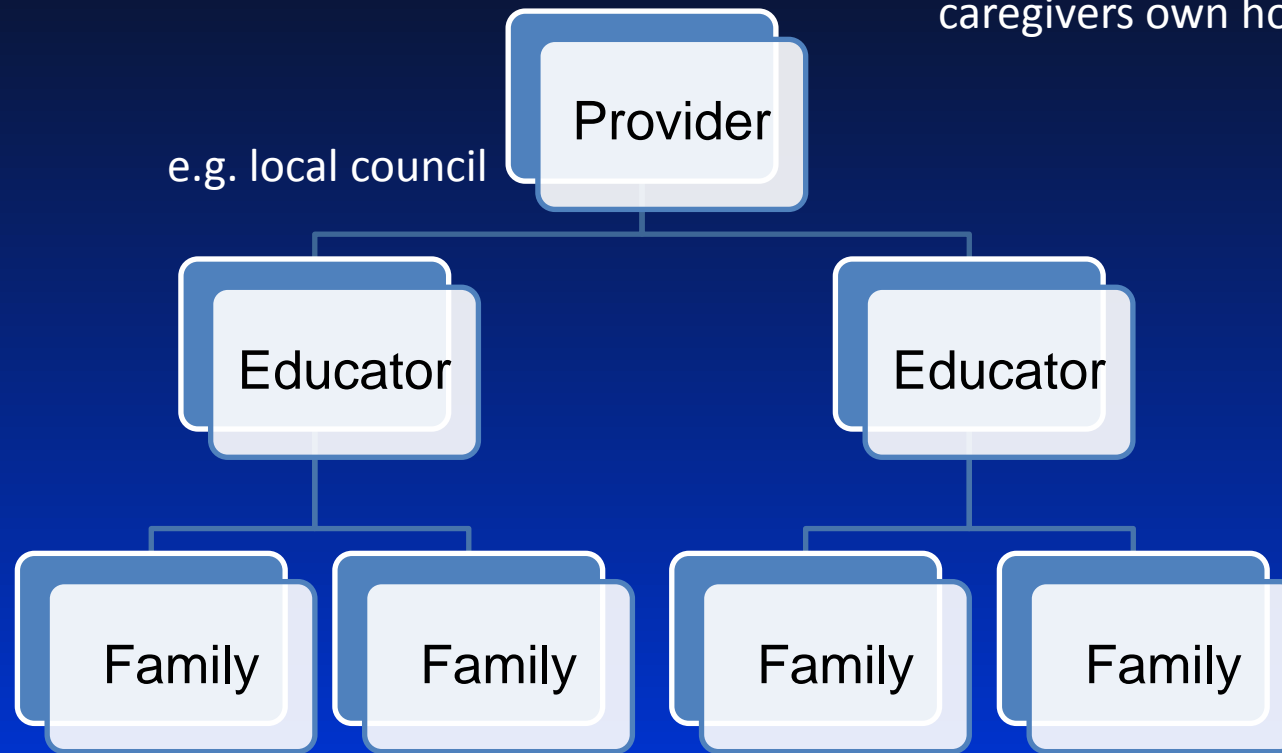
Family day care allows access to preschool children who still make use of child restraints

- 25,000 children
- However, there are no studies yet at family day care
- Family day care educators transport children in their cars

Background

FAMILY DAY CARE STRUCTURE

Family Day Care: A network of caregivers who look after other people's young children in the caregivers own home



Aim

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES?

This study aimed to evaluate providers' knowledge of child restraints, and the means by which information is passed on to families in order to identify the needs of this service model in becoming a delivery point for best practice interventions

This is part of a larger study looking at the needs of the whole community of family day care

Method

SURVEY

An online, or hard-copy survey was provided depending on participant preference

- Self-report questionnaire
- 40 closed response questions
- Survey questions gathered information on:
 - Demographics for the families/employees at each service
 - Their current child restraint knowledge
 - Training provided to the educators
- Incentives provided – gift voucher

Method

STAGE ONE

Providers

- 104 contacted
- Conducted between September-November 2011

STAGE TWO

38 Providers were contacted

- Sampled by LGA classification
- Providers selected at random
- Asked to contact all Educators and Families in their service
- Conducted between December 2011 – June 2012

Results

RESPONSE RATE

104 contacted – 48 returned

Response rate: 46%

REASONS FOR NON-PARTICIPATION

Approximately 50% of non-participants gave reasons

Primary reasons for non-participation were:

- High workloads restricting time available to complete survey
- Uncertainty regarding legality of information sharing

Results

SERVICE SIZE

	Educators	Families	Children
Number	1,552	9,965	13,645
Average	32.3	212.0	303.2

Likely an underestimate

- Many children are not permanently enrolled and use services on a casual basis

LANGUAGE

Number that speak a language other than English at home:

- Educators – 45.0%
- Families – 24.3%

Results

SUPPORT

Specific to the safe transportation of children in cars:

Professional – 92% (n=44)

- Training
- Education
- 71% of providers gave this support as mandatory staff training

Practical – 92% (n=44)

- Materials
- Restraints

Educational Resources – 94% (n=45)

Results

PROVISION OF CHILD RESTRAINTS

By:

- Provider – 79%
- Educator – 67%
- Family – 21%

When combined, 98% of the services were responsible for providing appropriate restraints

Results

KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

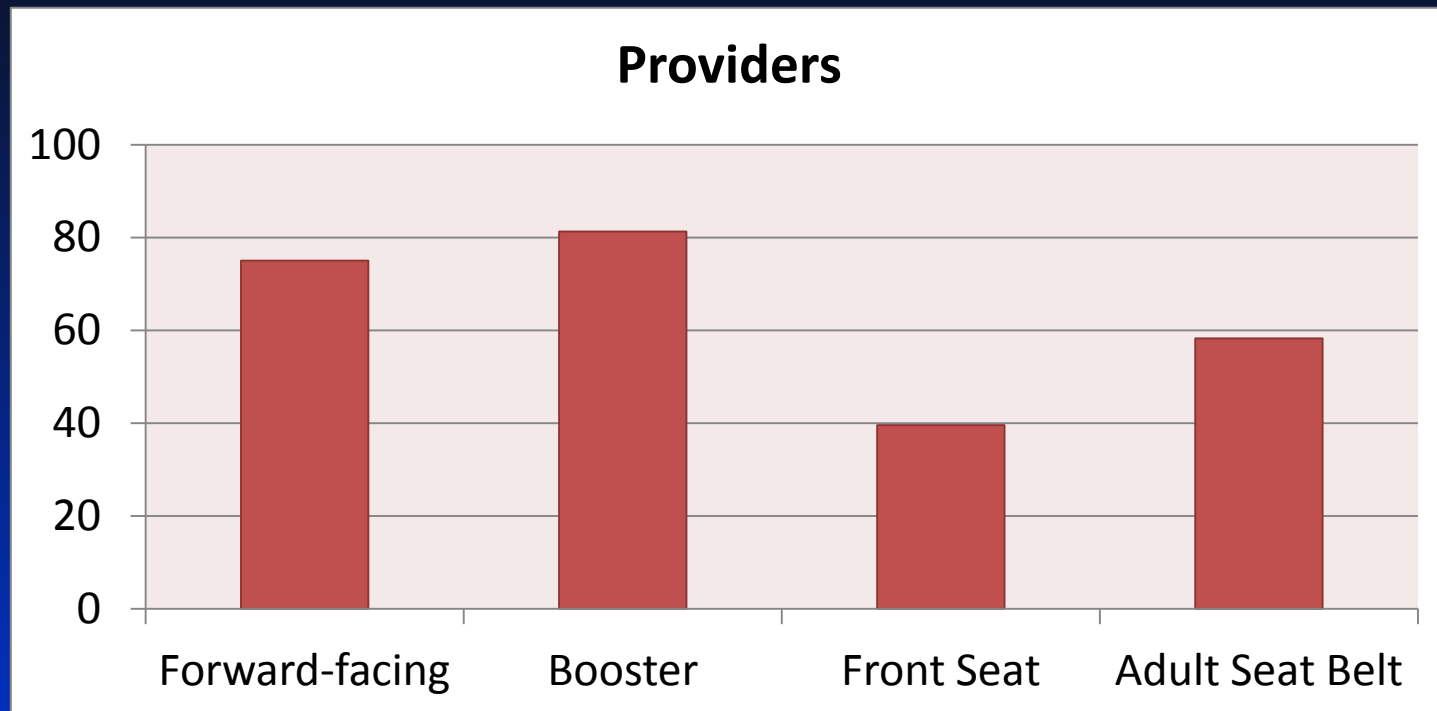
Each of the participants were initially asked if they knew the law regarding child restraint use

- 98% of providers surveys affirmed they knew the law

Those who reported knowing the law were asked to state the minimum age at which transitions can occur

Results

KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

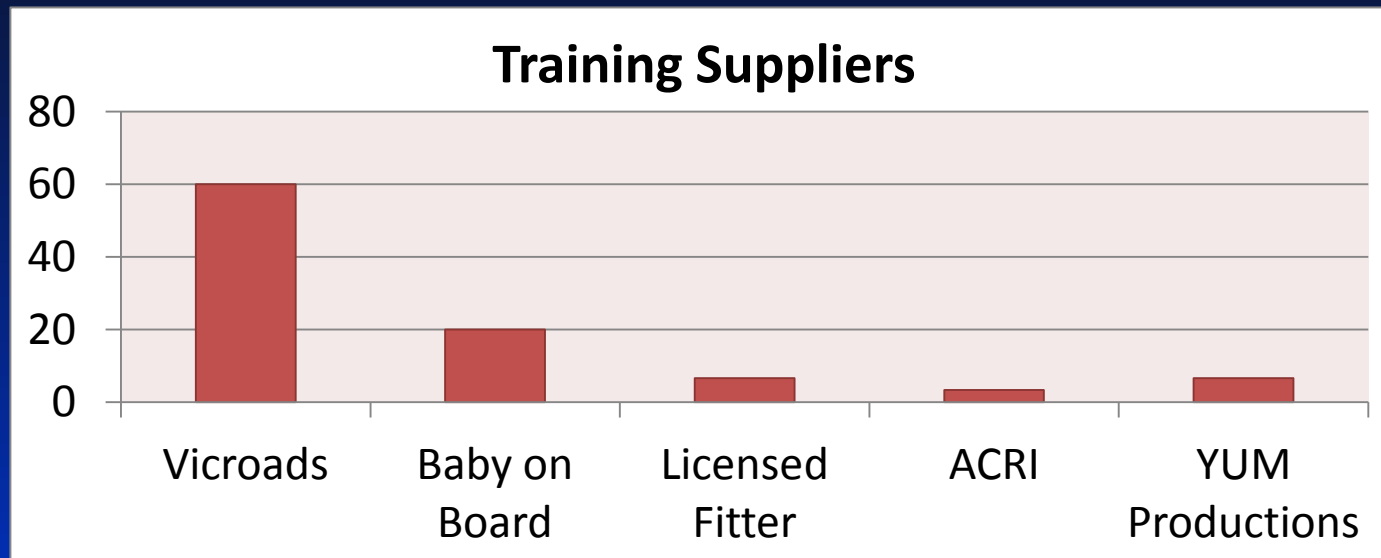


Front seat had answers ranging from 4 to 10 years of age

Results

PROVIDER TRAINING

Almost two-thirds (63%) stated they received training/education on best practice in safely transporting children in motor vehicles



- Average time period since training was 1 year and 9 months
- 40% had not received training since the Victorian legislation update in November 2009

Discussion

KNOWLEDGE

- Accurate knowledge is relatively low given:
 - The provision of
 - Training (92%)
 - Practical Support (92%)
 - Restraints for the children in the services (98%)
 - The mandatory nature of restraint use
- Greatest gaps in knowledge related to adult seat belts and the use of the front seat
 - Only 63% received training, 40% of these out of date
- Similar findings in a Canadian study of paediatricians

Rothenstein et al., 2004

Discussion

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

- Introduced from 1st January 2012:
 - Includes a day care rating system based on 7 quality areas
 - Children Health and Safety
 - Motivates services to keep current
 - Gives families better information to evaluate day care centres
- The NQF mentions the possibility of increasing support to services with poor/unsatisfactory performance
- The NQF may help identify services with the greatest levels of need

Discussion

OVERALL

- High proportion of educators and families from CALD communities
- Providers were receptive for most part
 - Interventions may be met with high level of interest

LIMITATIONS

- Small sample size
- Results cannot be extrapolated to all providers
- Self-report

Summary

Family day care services reach over 25,000 children. They would be a good way to direct information to parents

Current levels of knowledge are sub-optimal for providers. There is a need to implement processes to ensure and maintain currency in child safety legislature and best practice

Zara et al., 2004; Ehiri et al., 2006

Acknowledgments

Julie Brown - NeuRA
Helen Lindner - VicRoads
Lynne Bilston - NeuRA



Family Day Care Victoria



VicRoads

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Questions?

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