

Australian Centre for Disease Control Consultation
Australian Department of Health and Aged Care
CDCplanning@health.gov.au

9 December 2022

To the Consultation Team,

The Australasian College of Road Safety welcomes the establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC). This will be a crucial increase in our public health capacity.

The consultation report rightly notes that public health incorporates injury, and includes injury prevention policy as 'possibly in scope' for the CDC. The report also notes that the United States CDC's remit includes injury prevention.

Recent estimates conclude that the social cost of road crashes in Australia is up to \$30 billion each year.¹ Despite a reprieve through COVID, fatalities are now above pre-pandemic levels with 1,196 deaths in the 12 months to November 2022.² Serious injuries continue to steadily increase as they have over the past 10 years, with about 68,300 hospitalisations from transport injuries in 2020-21.³

All Australian Governments have agreed through the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, to a target of reducing fatalities by at least 50%, and serious injuries by at least 30% by 2030.⁴ If we are to have any hope of achieving this, something has to change.

While appreciating the broad scope of topics which need to be covered, the College strongly supports the inclusion of injury prevention and road trauma prevention, in the remit of Australia's new CDC to strongly focus our prevention attention on this important issue, which remains the leading cause of death for children in this country.⁵ This trauma is preventable.

The College appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to this consultation. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ingrid Johnston
CEO
Australasian College of Road Safety

¹ Steinhauser, R., et al. (2022). Social cost of road crashes. Report for the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics. <https://www.bitre.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/social-cost-of-road-crashes.pdf>, ANU.

² https://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/road_deaths_australia_monthly_bulletins

³ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/transport-injuries>

⁴ <https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/nrss>

⁵ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-children/contents/health/injuries>