
US evidence shows reduction in child quad bike deaths and injury**Thursday 14th September, 2017**

New evidence from the United States shows that legislating to prohibit children from riding quad bikes has reduced death and serious injury among this group.

“Sean’s Law” was introduced in 2010 in Massachusetts, which restricts the use of quad bikes by children under 14 years.

This week the *Pediatrics* journal reported that the regulations resulted in the rate of hospital admissions falling by almost half, and Emergency Department visits reduced by 33% in those aged 0-9 years, 50% in 10-13 year olds and 39% in 14-17 year olds.

Chair of the RACS Trauma Committee, Dr John Crozier said that quad bikes and kids do not mix.

“We need effective controls to prevent these tragedies. These deaths can be prevented if restrictions are put in place that reflect the danger that these machines pose to young riders”.

Between 2001 to 2017, 41 children under the age of 16 died in quad bike related accidents. Of those 41 children, 11 were under five years of age, 11 were aged 6 to 10, and 29 were aged 11 to 14.

There have been coronial inquiries conducted in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania that have all recommended prohibiting children under the age of 16 from riding quad bikes.

“We now have the evidence that laws that ban children from riding quad bikes work. Australian governments must follow suit, must respond to recommendations from recent coronial enquiries in four separate jurisdictions, and legislate the banning of children from riding quad bikes”.

“Quad bikes are not toys; they leave very little room for rider error – we have a duty to ensure that lack of judgement, skill, or body mass and physical strength, does not result in death or serious injury”, he said.

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

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