

Who can help ensure children with additional needs travel safely?

The majority of young children injured in traffic related incidents are passengers in cars. Visit childcarseats.com.au, who state "our research shows that children restrained incorrectly are up to seven times more likely to be seriously injured in a crash than children who are fitted in the correct car seat for their age and size". It is really important to have your child's restraint, specialised restraint or wheelchair professionally fitted at an Authorised Restraint Fitting Station.

The **Centre for Road Safety** recommends that families visit a professionally trained restraint fitting station to install and check their child's restraint. Visit the **Centre for Road Safety** website for a list of Authorised Restraint Fitting Stations close to you. They can fit and adjust restraints according to the individual needs of your child. Technical information and advice on child restraints and transporting children in vehicles, including children who travel in wheelchairs, can also be obtained by contacting the **Roads and Maritime Services (T: 13 22 13)**.

Wheelchairs and their occupants must always be properly restrained for their own protection and safety and for that of other passengers. Vehicles need to be modified (e.g. hoists, anchor points, additional doors, etc.) to allow wheelchair access and to transport wheelchair passengers safely and securely. Australian standards for safe passenger travel, including travel in wheelchairs, can be purchased from **Standards Australia Ltd. (T: 1800 035 822)**. www.standards.com.au

Contact **Kids and Traffic (T: 9805 3200)** or any of the following NSW support agencies available to help children with additional needs travel safely:

Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT) (T: 8977 8300 or 1800 277 328) provides information and practical advice about children with autism spectrum disorders. www.aspect.org.au

Cerebral Palsy Alliance (formerly The Spastic Centre) **(T: 9975 8000)** provides therapy and support services for children and adults with cerebral palsy. 'GoMobility' is a statewide mobility

program based at the McLeod Centre and offers advice on mobility options for children and youth with physical disabilities. www.cerebralpalsy.org.au

Disability and Aged Information Service Inc. (DAISI), Ballina (T: 6686 7887 or 1800 800 340) gives information on services and support to people with disabilities and their families who live in the NSW Far North Coast. www.daisi.asn.au

Down Syndrome NSW (T: 9841 4444) provides support and information to people with Down syndrome and their families, service providers and the wider community. www.downsyndromensw.org.au



Epilepsy Action Australia (T: 1300 EPILEPSY – 1300 37 45 37) provides support to people affected by seizures and is committed to enhancing their quality of life and to improving community attitudes towards seizure disorders. www.epilepsy.org.au

Independent Living Centre NSW (ILCNSW), Parramatta (T: 9912 5800 or 1300 885 886)

provides information and advice on transporting children in vehicles, child restraints, harnesses and transfer aids. ILCNSW also provides details of equipment, suppliers, vehicle modifiers, transport resources and companies that hire child restraints. www.ilcnsw.asn.au

Information on Disability & Education Awareness Services (IDEAS), Ultimo, Wollongong and Tumut (T: 1800 029 904)

provides details of suppliers of equipment for transporting children in vehicles.

www.ideas.org.au

Mobility Engineering (T: 9482 4572) specialises in motor vehicle occupant protection and seat and vehicle modifications. They offer 'total mobility solutions for your independence'.

www.mobilityengineering.com.au

Northcott Equipment Solutions (NES) (T: 9890 0950 or 9890 0195) of the **Northcott Society (T: 9890 0100 or 1800 818 286)** offers comprehensive facilities for mobility solutions for people with mobility and rehabilitation needs across NSW, including wheelchair maintenance and customised seating solutions.

www.northcott.com.au/nes.php

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (T: 9871 1233 – TTY/V) helps deaf, blind and deafblind children learn to move independently through Orientation and Mobility.

www.ridbc.org.au

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (T: 9661 8855 or, for those with disabilities and their carers outside Sydney, 1800 819 775) is committed to preventing spinal cord injuries, to caring and creating independence and unlimited opportunities for those who have them or other severe physical disabilities and to supporting research. www.scia.org.au

Technical Aid to the Disabled (TADNSW) (T: 9912 3400 or 1300 663 243) uses volunteers who design and construct custom-designed equipment for children with disabilities. TADNSW works in consultation with therapists and carers to analyse the needs of the individual child.

www.tadnsw.org.au

The TranSPOT Committee is affiliated with **SPOT on DD**, a group of **S**peech Pathologists, **P**hysiotherapists and **O**ccupational **T**herapists who work in the disability area. TranSPOT promotes best practice in safe transport through safe seating, positioning and assistive technology solutions for people with a disability in NSW. Their 'Transport Safety Guidelines' can be purchased via www.spotondd.org.au and includes such sections as transport safety checklists and pamphlets, child safety restraints and travelling in wheelchairs.

Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Service (WATs) (T: 8332 0200). For information about wheelchair accessible taxi services available in country areas contact the **NSW Taxi Industry Association (T: 9332 1266)**. www.nswtaxi.org.au

