

The Motorcycle Safety Levy: Providing an integrated program to improve motorcyclist safety

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Overview

- Motorcyclists over-represented in crash statistics
- 14% of fatalities and serious injuries but only 3% of all vehicle registrations
- Increasing popularity
- The Motorcycle Safety Levy
 - enables a greater level of funding to be spent on improving motorcyclist safety
 - is spent on projects that would not otherwise be funded

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Process for Developing Program of Motorcycle Safety Initiatives

- Strategic framework to guide expenditure
- 4 priority areas:
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Enhanced information for decision making
 - Enforcement
- Role of the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC)
- Workshops to identify specific project ideas

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Progress

- 112 blackspot projects
- 11 other on-road projects
- 25 non-road projects

Priority Area	Funds Committed/ Spent (%)
Education	19
Engineering	74
Enhanced Information for Decision Making	7
Enforcement	0

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Education - Hazard perception and responding project

- Objective: To identify fundamental requirements of motorcyclist hazard perception and responding
- Previous stages:
 - literature review
 - examination of training methods for teaching safe hazard perception and responding
- Future stages: Development of hazard perception training materials

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Education - Protective clothing project

- Wearing protective clothing prevents and reduces minor and serious injuries BUT many motorcyclists do not wear sufficient protective clothing
- 3 stage project investigating a 'star rating' system:
 - 1: literature review and model development
 - 2: market research
 - 3: feasibility study
- Expected benefit: consumers can more easily identify and purchase quality protective clothing items



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Education - Assisted rides project

- Inexperience a key contributor to motorcycle crashes
- Examples: BikeSafe UK, Yarra Ranges Instructed Rides
- Completed stages:
 - review of current programs
 - market tested possible models
- Next stages: development, trial and evaluation
- Expected benefit: improved on-road riding skills

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Education - Redevelopment of rider handbook and knowledge test

- Victorian Rider Handbook
 - Latest safety information
 - Key knowledge competencies
- Motorcycle Knowledge Test
 - To gain motorcycle learners permit

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Enhanced Information - Motorcycle exposure study

- Traditional measures unreliable for motorcyclists
- Objective: improve understanding of motorcyclist exposure on Victorian roads
- Study includes:
 - Analysis of traffic count data
 - Follow up survey (Department of Infrastructure VISTA)
 - Online survey of motorcyclists



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Enhanced Information - Off-road riding injuries

- Extent and nature of off-road injuries not well known
- Completed stages:
 - Analysis of hospital and ABS data
 - Feasibility study into other potential information sources
- Outcome: Improved understanding of off-road riding injuries
- Future study: Benefits & feasibility of establishing off-road riding facilities

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Enhanced Information - Other projects

- Investigation into the role of speed and speeding in motorcycle crashes
- Research into involvement of scooters in crashes and their common crash types



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Engineering - Maintenance practices communication strategy

- Motorcycles and scooters sensitive to changes in road surface
- Project involved:
 - Review
 - Consultation
 - Communication strategy development
 - Training materials development
- Outcome: more motorcycle friendly roads and roadsides



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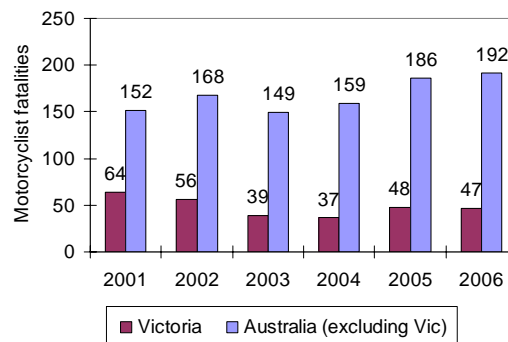
Centre of Excellence

- Increased number of motorcycle research projects
→ Increased demand for motorcycle safety researchers
- Centre of excellence in motorcycle safety and transport research proposed
- The potential for such a centre currently under investigation

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Expected & Potential Benefits

- 27% decrease in fatalities in Victoria
- 26% increase in the rest of Australia
- Benefits of non-road program expected over longer term



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Conclusions

- Motorcycle Safety Levy provided for an extensive motorcycle specific road safety program
- Continuation of levy will enable motorcycle safety in Victoria to continue to improve