

## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

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Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

Kidsafe Queensland Incorporated

## **Submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Committee Inquiry on Personal Mobility Devices**

**Susan Teerds, CEO, Kidsafe Qld Inc. 20 June 2025**

I am the CEO of Kidsafe Queensland Inc – an organisation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional injury in children for almost 50 years.

E-devices are travelling at speeds much greater than regulated. It is common for devices to be modified.

Children under 16 years should be banned from owning and riding these e-devices.

Children do not have the necessary knowledge or skills to be riding at speed around pedestrians or in traffic.

Parents are purchasing these devices unaware of the dangers and current legal requirements to supervise children between 12 and 16 years.

Helmets are rarely worn by children or adults on e-devices.

All e-riders put pedestrians at risk.

1. *Benefits of e-mobility (including both Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes) for Queensland;*

While there are some benefits of the use of e-devices, the dangerous and often fatal consequences particularly for children far outweigh any benefits.

2. *Safety issues associated with e-mobility use, including increasing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and community concerns;*

Injuries and fatalities include:

- Falls

- Collisions with stationary objects, other riders, pedestrians and vehicles

- Burns related to battery fires

Children under 16 do not have the cognitive ability to navigate all the hazards on footpaths and roads at speed. They do not know the road rules, cannot quickly judge the speed of other riders/drivers and are largely unaware of the risks and the consequences of the choices they need to make in split seconds.



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3. *Issues associated with e-mobility ownership, such as risk of fire, storage and disposal of lithium batteries used in emobility, and any consideration of mitigants or controls;*

PMDs used for personal, work or school transport creates significant issues for safe storage – in sheds, garages, bedrooms and offices – and have also been responsible for house fire fatalities and injuries. Lithium battery fires are more likely when the battery has been damaged.

School should ban the storage of e-devices at school because of the fire danger and if the child is under 16 years of age.

4. *Suitability of current regulatory frameworks for PMDs and ebikes, informed by approaches in Australia and internationally;*

While there is legislation for where to ride and how fast, this is mostly ignored by users. Riders and their parents are mostly unaware of any rules around the use of PMDs.

It is confusing where the rules differ between states and Queensland is behind other states allowing children under 16 years to ride PMDs.

5. *Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches and powers to address dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices;*

As a regular road user driving and a pedestrian walker, I have seen little or no enforcement on the speed of PMD riders or the use of helmets, doubling, children riders etc. There are not enough police to enforce the volume of e-device riders riding unsafely or illegally.

As e-devices are not registered, camera detection would not be an option.

7. *Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use; and*

There is little or no education easily available to parents purchasing e-devices for children. There is no point-of-sale information about legislation or rules.

In Queensland children between 12 and 16 are able to ride greater than 200W e-devices if supervised by an adult. It is highly unusual for an adult to ride beside a child on an e-device. Parents do not know this is a requirement.

Susan Teerds  
CEO Kidsafe Qld Inc

