

## TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

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Email: [trc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:trc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Committee Secretary  
Transport and Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

As the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is committed to taking informed and principled positions on issues of public health at both state and federal level.

Globally, electric (e-) mobility has seen a rapid growth in recent years, as a cheap, convenient, and environmentally sustainable form of travel, particularly for short trips. E-mobility encompasses a range of personal mobility devices, including e-scooters, e-skateboards, hoverboards, e-unicycles, and Segways. Other terms for this type of transport include personal mobility devices (PMDs), micromobility or e-micromobility, and rideables.

The e-mobility trend has seen an explosion of e-scooters on roads and paths in cities around the world through their availability via public hire schemes as well as private ownership for commuting, business operations, and recreational travel. Public e-scooters first became available in Australia in 2018 when e-scooter rental company Lime launched in Brisbane. Since then, competitors Beam and Neuron have also launched in locations around Australia. The introduction of e-scooters, however, has brought regulatory challenges and safety concerns.

RACS is pleased to see the proposed legislative changes. The more legislation can ensure that users of these personal mobility devices are treated in the same way as other road users is a positive step forward. We are aware of the popularity of the devices however sensible legislation and regulation in road usage is imperative to protect the individual user, other road and footpath users including pedestrians and should ensure the safety of all.

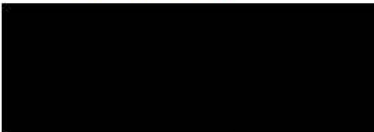
The RACS Trauma Committee is a surgical committee but has many non-surgical members including police, ambulance and RACQ. Another group represented on the Committee is the Jamieson Trauma Institute. They have compiled some compelling statistics in relation to scooter injuries in Queensland. They are reflective of a growing injury toll over the past 5 years. Their most recent statistics are below:

- Jamieson Trauma Institute ([Jamieson Trauma Institute | Metro North Health](#)) have continued compiling data on e-scooter related injury presentations in Qld since the previous figures were released with funding from RACQ and RBWH foundation. The new data collection which we are currently analysing compiles data sourced from the Qld Injury Surveillance Unit, which captures a sample of around 20 emergency departments across Qld (details about the QISU here: [QISU Data - Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)). This data (which is preliminary and subject to slight changes as it is still being analysed by the JTI team) shows the following patterns over the years:
  - Nov-Dec 2018: 38 cases
  - 2019: 288 cases

- 2020: 386 cases
- 2021: 706 cases
- 2022: 1033 cases
- Jan-Jul 2023: 716 cases to end of July.
- ~Average of around 100 ED presentations from e-scooter related injuries a month across the QISU sites over the most recent 12 months

The RACS position paper on mobility devices can be found [here](#). RACS is conducting a Symposium on E-Scooters on the 17 November 2023 and has speakers from Police, Ambulance, RACQ, Brisbane City Council and Departments of Transport and Fair Trading in addition to emergency departments doctors and surgeons. It hopes to update its position paper after that symposium.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Hope MD(Hons), BSc(MedSci), MBChB, FRCSEd(Tr & Orth), FRACS, FAOA  
Chair Trauma Committee

