

MEDIA RELEASE



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



ROADWISE

13 September 2006

Child Car Restraints – Weigh in Correctly

The Geraldton Child Car Restraint Committee now has the resources to provide a regular child car restraint checking service thanks to a Community Road Safety Grant.

The best way to increase your child's safety when travelling in a vehicle is to ensure they are properly restrained. By using seatbelts and child restraints, you dramatically reduce the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.

To ensure your child's safety, always check that the restraint is fitted correctly. Considerations must be made regarding your child's size and weight, the type of restraint and its correct anchoring.

The WA Local Government Association's RoadWise Program and Community Health have organised a free child car restraint check to be held on **Friday, 15th September 2006 at the Sunset IGA Shopping Centre from 9.00am – 12.00pm.**

Geraldton Child Car Restraint Committee Chairperson Deb Muscio, said feedback from the community indicated that a child car restraint checking service was definitely warranted and much appreciated.

"Previous checking stations have picked up a number of faults in restraint installations and allowed qualified fitters to rectify these issues immediately," Mrs Muscio said.

"The checking stations also address the use of the appropriate restraints for the height and weight of your child.

"Each child restraint must suit the child's weight and size. The child's weight and size are much more important than their age so it is important that the correct type of restraint is installed as your child grows."

To have your child car restraint checked before this date, or to obtain an information pamphlet, please ring Peta Stokes, RoadWise Officer (Mid West) on 99650155.

Ends

Local Government House
15 Altona Street
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FOR MEDIA COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Cr Bill Mitchell, Association President 0427 171 896
Peta Stokes, Road Safety Officer (Mid West), 0419 953 583



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Additional information:

A guide for the appropriate restraint for your child:

The reversible / convertible baby seat has two positions - the rearward facing or forward facing position. The rearward facing position is used for babies weighing up to 9kg or 12kg (check manufacturer instructions), while the forward facing position can be used for children weighing between 9kg and 18kg (children should be at least 6 months of age).

The forward facing restraint with a harness is suitable for children weighing between 8kg and 18kg (approximately 6 months to 4 years of age).

The child harness or H harness is a harness used without a chair and is suitable for children who weigh between 14kg and 32kg (approximately 3 years to 8 years of age).

Another alternative is the booster seat which is held in place by the child's weight and car's lap/sash belt or child harness. Booster seats are available in two configurations; a booster cushion (backless) or a booster seat with backrest included. Booster seats are suitable for children who weigh between 14kg and 26kg (approximately 3 to 6 years of age).

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