

Buckle up Restraint Fitting Training — Your Children Our Future

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1. Project Synopsis

Child restraints are designed as accessories to be used to provide protection for children in the event of car accidents. They provide protection normally over and above that provided by the manufacturer for young vehicle occupants. Children will get this high level of protection only if the child restraint is installed and used correctly. Incorrect installation can and does reduce the performance causing serious injury or death to a child.

Choosing and using child restraints can be quite difficult, fitting can be even more so. This is reflected by the number of studies as well as restraint fitment days which have shown an alarming 9 out of 10 vehicles restraints were found to be incorrectly fitted. The only way a restraint can work effectively is if it is fitted to the car in the manner designed by the manufacturer, and that can only be done by an RTA approved Restraint installer.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead admitted more than 26,697 children for treatment; it provided 626,239 treatments and consultation for children in outpatients and performed 13,561 operations, with the emergency department treating almost 40,037 every year. If ever there was a target audience in which to change and promote the correct use of occupant restraints, their proper use and fitment and increase awareness it should and would be here.

The development of this project enabled Parramatta city council an opportunity to join in partnership and support with Kids health and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This active co operation of key stakeholders from a community development prospective has combined to train 20 selected hospital and allied health staff in the correct installation and checking of child restraints in cars and pass their knowledge on to parents of patients, other staff members and other stakeholders.

2. Project Dates

June 2005 On going

3. Links to Councils Road Safety Strategic Plan and /Or Action Plan

This project is guided by Parramatta City Councils Road Safety Strategic and Action Plan in the key area of Safer People – Occupant Restraint and Community awareness.
RTA State-wide Buckle up Program

4. Road Safety Problem: Include details of problem identification

Injuries to children can be significantly reduced if they use a suitable child restraint. Child restraints come in a wide variety from baby seats, child seats, booster seats and booster cushions. But even if one has the correct child restraint and it is not fitted correctly an injury or even death of an infant may occur.

The Westmead Children's hospital see more than 700,000 patients each year, with Kidshealth seeing more than 3500 visitors per year also. The hospital also has a number of auxiliary departments

including Bear Cottage, Kids Outreach and Liaison Service who all lend car seats to families every day, and each week non RTA qualified staff have been installing loan child restraints into cars. With the transports section of the hospital fitting on average 6 child restraints into cars per week.

This staff if trained by an RTA accredited course would be better informed in regard to recommending car seat installation and understanding the rules and regulations to child restraints safety, such age of seats, maintenance. This training would improve their practice in providing safe discharge of patients but also educating the more than 700,000 families they come in contact with of the importance of child restraint safety.

5. Target Group and Strategies

The target group was the Westmead Children's Hospital, Allied health staff and the more than 700,000 patient visitors to the hospital each year.

- a. To train 20 hospital and allied staff members in the correct installation of child restraints and attain RTA certification.
- b. To empower staff as advocates for child restraint safety and thereby increase parental awareness of the importance appropriately restraining children in cars and thereby increasing parental compliance in the use of child restraints.
- c. To provide the safe movement and transfer of child patients in hospital vehicles

6. Objectives of Project

- a. Organise funding for 20 Health and Allied Staff to receive restraint training
- b. Attain RTS child restraint accreditation /Certification of 20 Health and Allied staff of the Westmead Children's Hospital
- c. To increase the safety of all children and new born travelling to and from the Children's hospital in hospital cars
- d. To promote the correct use of child restraints when installing loan restraints
- e. To Reduce the number child fatalities and serious injuries with Parramatta LGA
- f. Promote the safe use of occupant restraints available , their proper use and fitment to all visitors and staff at the Westmead Children's Hospital

7. Evaluation: List each project objective and indicate to what extent showed that each objective was achieved

- a. Parramatta Council organised funding to train 20 selected hospital and Allied health workers from the Westmead children's Hospital.
- b. 20 Staff undertook a two day accredited course in fitment of child restraints conducted by Mobility Engineering an RTA approved Restraint fitment trainer
- c. This staffs have now passed on their experience onto other staff members and parents attending the hospital
- d. Kids Outreach and Liaison service (KOLS) have used the training as part of their job in fitting restraints to the KOLS cars and used information to educate families that they have and contact with.
- e. Transport section drivers fit on average 6 child car restraints a week in Hospital transport vehicles
- f. Bear cottage have stated that the training has been invaluable in assisting their staff as and organisation to thoroughly assess its transport vehicles and child restraint options and presented to all staff at the cottage
- g. Outpatient's department loan car seats to needy families and since the training have used the knowledge learned to fit these restraints into the vehicle.
- h. All staff involved has stated that the course has better informed them of how to install s well as recommending the child restraint and having a better understanding of the rules and regulations of child restraint safety and the importance of the maintenance and age of lent child restraints.

- i. The head of this department stated that this training has improved their practice in providing safety discharge of patients but also in educating families on the importance of child restraint safety

8. Innovation or improved Practice

This project, I believe, has shown innovation by thinking outside the square and going to the coal face (The Westmead Childrens hospital) in respect to promoting the safe use and correct installation of child restraints within the community, by going direct to where parents collect their new born, or whilst attending the hospital for treatment for their Children. It has provided the community, and the people whom the community trust, with the expertise in the installation and fitment of child restraints, and by this training and gained knowledge merge this information into a road user targeted behaviour awareness and education program

9. Conclusion and Recommendation.

The development of this project enabled Parramatta city council an opportunity to join in partnership and support with Kids health and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This active co operation of key stakeholders from a community development prospective has combined to train 20 selected hospital and allied health staff in the correct installation and checking of child restraints in cars and pass their knowledge on to the more than 700,000 parents of patients, other staff members and other stakeholders.

The training of 20 Hospital and Allied Health staff of the Westmead children's hospital who are seen as trusted people within the community the experts when it comes to children's care to become advocates for child restraint safety and thereby increasing parental awareness of the importance of appropriately restraining children in cars and thereby increasing compliance in the use of child restraints.

Project Title

**BUCKLE UP RESTRAINT FITTING TRAINING
YOUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE**

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