



February 2010

safe²go



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COORDINATOR UPDATE ►

I wish you all the best for 2010 and am looking forward to a productive year ahead.

In this update, I would like to congratulate the technicians on a job well done and touch on how we have got to where we are today.

In June 2007 we introduced the new recertifying process. A recent informal survey shows that 80% of technicians are opting for this new process and all of the trainers are doing a great job.

For some time now the management team have been looking at creating a truly national programme and I have also received requests from trainers and technicians to 'take the programme up another level'. Margaret from NZTA has provided an update on our new national professional development programme in this edition and we encourage you to

check out her article on page 3.

The National Police Restraint Campaign runs from 7 to 13 March 2010. If you are not already holding a checking clinic of your own, please offer assistance to your local Road Safety Coordinator, or organise your own small clinic. Remember to make it exciting, invite the press, community leaders and take photos. The more clinics we host during the week, the more awareness we create. If you'd like to know more, give me a call on 09 827 6182.

Thanks to all of you, many of New Zealand's babies, toddlers and young children are safely and correctly restrained in vehicles. All your hard work is paying off.

Berenice Langson

National Safe2Go Coordinator

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P.S. If you are attending the Plunket Conference and Safekids Campaign workshop days in Auckland, keep an eye out for me, I'd love to catch up with you.

TRAINER PROFILE

Rachel Stewart – Rotorua, Taupo, Turangi, Gisborne/Wairoa and Waikato

Rachel Stewart is our Safe2Go trainer covering Rotorua, Taupo, Turangi, Gisborne/Wairoa and Waikato and has been involved with Safe2Go for nearly three years.

Like many of our trainers, Rachel came to Safe2Go after working for Plunket as a car seat coordinator where she was trained as a Safe2Go technician.

"I was friends with the car seat coordinator at the time and she was looking for someone to help her," says Rachel. "That was six years ago now and once I got involved, I was hooked, which led me to Safe2Go."

"When I look back, I wish I had had the knowledge I have now when my own children were born," says Rachel.

Rachel works 20 hours a week holding workshops, organising

clinics three times a year and running regular check points in Rotorua, as well as liaising with ACC, the police and the Rotorua District Council. On top of this, she is also a Kids in Cars coordinator for Rotorua.

"I find my role as a child restraint advocate really rewarding," says Rachel. "I really feel like I'm making a difference and not only teaching others new skills, but constantly learning myself."



When Rachel isn't busy advocating for the safe use of child restraints she loves to get out mountain biking and camping.

"We have just returned from a lovely holiday at Lake Rerewhakaaitu where we meet up with a group of families each year," says Rachel. "It's a great place for my two daughters (11 and 7 years old) to enjoy their summer holidays."

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Did you know?

NOT ALL CHILD RESTRAINTS ARE THE SAME

Most convertible rear-facing child restraint instructions recommend that when using the restraint, the harness straps should be level with the child's shoulders or just below.

However, some have different instructions, for example Safe'n'Sound convertible seats. The instruction manual states that 'for baby up to 12kg, shoulder straps must be in slots which are nearest to the child's shoulders, but not lower than the child's shoulders'.

This is a timely reminder for us all to remember to tell caregivers to read the instructions that come with their child restraint very carefully to ensure their child is restrained safely.

Thanks to Annie Nuualiitia, Auckland Central Suburbs Area Administrator at Plunket for sharing this timely reminder.

NEVER FIT A FORWARD FACING RESTRAINT INTO REAR FACING VEHICLE SEATS

Simone Budel, CSRS Manager/Safety Coordinator at Waitemata Plunket recently discovered a problem regarding fitting child restraints into people movers or vans and was keen to share her experience.

Most people movers or vans usually have three rows of seats and in some vehicles, the second row can be turned around to be rear facing. Simone was recently asked by a caregiver whether it was safe to put a forward facing child restraint in a rear facing seat.

After advising the caregiver that, as per the manufacturer's instructions, this was not correct, Simone also circulated a letter to all Regional Road Safety Coordinators clarifying best practice around fitting child restraints into rear facing vehicle seats.

Thank you Simone, for taking the initiative and ensuring our children are safely restrained in vans and people movers.

THREE EASY STEPS TO CHECK IF A CHILD REQUIRES A BOOSTER SEAT

The legal minimum regarding the use of child restraints in vehicles requires that all children under the age of five be properly restrained by an approved child restraint. Refer to the New Zealand Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (SR 2004/427) for more information.

However, the majority of children are still too small at the age of five to be safe in an adult-sized safety belt. Parents need to be reminded to check this periodically before having the child restrained in an adult safety belt.

The following steps are a quick and easy way for parents to check whether their child should still be using a booster seat:

Have the child sit on the vehicle seat, sitting all the way back, with their back straight against the back of the seat and buckle the lap/sash safety belt over them, then check:

1. Do their legs bend naturally at the knees over the edge of the seat?
2. Does the lap belt portion of the belt fit low over the hips and top of their thighs?
3. Does the shoulder portion of the safety belt fit across the centre of their chest?

If the answer to any of these questions is NO, the child will be better protected in a booster seat. For example, a child in a poorly-fitted safety belt usually slumps down, allowing the safety belt to ride up onto their abdomen and neck, which can cause severe injuries to the child's neck and internal organs in the event of a car crash.

Please remember to pass this information on to parents and caregivers, so we can keep our children safe.



DON'T FORGET TO TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

It's important to encourage your customers to try the restraint/seat in their car before making their purchase, to make sure it fits in the car correctly.

However, if they don't have the car with them to check, remind them to keep their receipt just in case and give them the option of returning the restraint/seat (as long as it is not damaged) for a full refund or swap if required.



Tell us what you know!

If you've learned something new about child restraints recently, had an experience you think would benefit other technicians or simply have some good advice to share, please don't hesitate to let us know so we can share it with others. Drop Berenice an email anytime at berenice.langson@childsafety.co.nz.



Exciting Times For Safe2go Trainers And Technicians

by Margaret Stevenson-Wright

A huge thanks to those members of the Steering Group, trainers and technicians who have provided input to the changes that will see the strengthening of the professional development process through which both trainers and technicians are trained.

There will be ongoing opportunities for you to provide feedback on the changes.

The changes planned for both trainers and technicians will make Safe2Go a truly 'national' programme.

The current programme is a national one because it is delivered across the country. The planned competence-based programme will be 'national' because:

1. The unit standards against which training will occur are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).
2. Assessment decisions made by the trainers will be subject to a national moderation system.

What will change for the trainers?

The professional development for Safe2Go trainers will consist of a 'limited credit programme' (LCP). This is made up of four unit standards that address the assessment of candidate performance; the provision of guidance to individual adult learners; delivery of on-the-job training; and the verification of assessment evidence on behalf of the learner.

The unit standards within the trainer's LCP are a part of the National Certificate in Adult Education and Training (level 4).

Trainers will also be expected to demonstrate competence against the unit standards within the training programme for technicians.

When will the changes commence for the trainers?

Kari Miller facilitated training for the trainers in early February. Those who participated benefited from Kari's considerable experience and expertise around competency-based learning and the NQF.

This training equipped trainers to create a 'portfolio of evidence' to capture the significant knowledge and competence they currently hold, which addresses some of the competence requirements of each of the standards.

Trainers will submit their 'portfolios of evidence' for assessment – and if deemed competent against the requirements, will be awarded the unit standards.

What will change for technicians?

A search of the qualifications framework identified that there are no existing unit standards, so two unit standards have been written that address child restraints. These new standards will be packaged with existing standards that focus on customer service to form a LCP for technicians and are part of the National Certificate in Retail (level 2). One of the new standards addresses the knowledge essential to the selling, renting or installation of child restraints and the other, the actual practical competence required.

The unit standards are currently with NZQA for registration on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

We are working closely with the Retail Institute around the packaging of these LCPs, the registration of the new unit standards and the registration of credits, and will continue to keep you informed.

We look forward to your ongoing feedback.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact Margaret Stevenson-Wright on margaret.stevenson-wright@nzta.govt.nz or phone 04 894 6377.



Safe2Go Workshops

Safe2Go workshop dates up until May 2010 are listed below. Contact your local trainer to find out more about these trainings on offer as well as Practice Recertification dates.

TRAINER/REGION	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Sandy Waugh Bay of Plenty/Coromandel	16th		12th
Fiona Whaanga Napier/Hastings		28th	
Aynsley Wilkinson Nelson/West Coast & Marlborough	8th	12th	
Viv Morton Porirua, Wellington & Hutt Valley			4th
Julie Clarke South Canterbury & Dunedin		*TBC	*TBC
Heather Eustace West Coast, North Shore, Northland, Whangarei & Dargaville	18th	15th	
Rachel Stewart Rotorua/Turangī & Lakes District			10th

*TBC - To be confirmed

CAMPAIGNS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES...

KISS – Kids In Safe Seats National Child Restraint Conference

The National Child Restraint Conference is being held in Auckland on 22 and 23 April. The conference will have both a national and international flavour, with speakers from New Zealand and overseas discussing programmes, technical information and trends. There will also be networking opportunities for people from throughout New Zealand who are passionate about keeping our children safe in vehicles.

We're excited at having secured the keynote speaker, Kathy Kruger, from BUCK-L-UP, the Washington State safety restraint coalition in the United States. Kathy is an internationally acclaimed expert in the field of child car restraints. This is her first visit to New Zealand and we are looking forward to hosting her.

The KISS conference will build on the

success of the 2006 conference, which was attended by over 200 people.

For further information, visit www.plunket.org.nz or contact Sue Campbell at sue.campbell@plunket.org.nz.

Safekids 2010/2011 Campaign

The Safekids 2010/2011 Campaign, 'The higher you sit, the safer the fit' focuses on the fact that adult safety belts don't fit children correctly, and that it is safer for kids to keep on using an appropriate car restraint or booster seat after their fifth birthday.

Research shows that booster seats for pre-school and school-aged children can reduce the risk of a trip to the hospital, or even death, by up to 59%; and when used correctly, child car restraints can

reduce the risk of death for infants by up to 70%, toddlers up to 54%, and the need for hospitalisation for children four years and over by 69%.

To find out more about this campaign, visit www.safekids.org.nz.

Source: www.safekids.org.nz

Safekids Workshops

2010 sees Safekids entering their second year of child restraint focus and Information and Planning Workshops have been scheduled from the end of April 2010 throughout the country.

If you would like to attend one of these workshops, please contact your local Safekids Coordinator. Contact details can be found on their website.



National Police Child Restraint Campaign 7 - 13 March



New Zealand Police will be running a National Child Restraint Campaign from 7 March to 13 March 2010.

Technicians are encouraged to contact their local Road Safety Coordinator to be a part of this campaign and raise the awareness of Safe2Go. Remember to take lots of photos because we may be in contact to write a story about your campaign. When taking photos, please ensure you have your camera set on the highest resolution setting; otherwise we may not be able to use them.

Although each police region will run their campaign slightly differently, their messages and aims are the same.

We spoke to Inspector Peter Baird, Road Policing Manager at Wellington Central Police Station, to find out what is planned for his region.

"We have two main aims for our campaign," says Inspector Baird. "The first is to increase the wearing rate of restraints for children and the second is to provide education to caregivers on the use of child restraints. There are a lot of adults/caregivers who don't necessarily look after the child they are transporting full time, so don't realise how important it is to use child restraints properly. For example,

grand parents or friends may pick up children from school and strap them in, but have no idea what is the correct and safe way to restrain the child."

Wellington Central's plan is to set up check points around high parent/child locations like schools, crèches and kindergartens at times when the child is either being dropped off or picked up.

"We'll have technicians on site to install bolts if required and will offer a two week compliance option for drivers who wish to arrange for their own installation. The compliance process includes an infringement notice which is waived once the bolt has been installed and the driver provides proof of installation within the two weeks," says Inspector Baird.

If a child is found to be unrestrained, the driver could be fined up to \$150.00.

"As it's going to be a pretty intense campaign, we will be giving stickers to drivers who are compliant so they can put it on their windscreen to show they've been checked already," says Inspector Baird. "This saves time for us as well as the driver."