

MEDIA RELEASE



Embargoed until Thursday, 1 August 2013

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES & MEDICAL CONDITIONS IN VEHICLES

Standards Australia will today launch an Australian Standard at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne which will assist in protecting children with disabilities and medical conditions in motor vehicles.

Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia, Colin Blair, said the purpose of the standard is to reduce the risk of bodily injury to both the child and other occupants in vehicle accidents.

Mr Blair said major changes to AS/NZS 4370:2013 *Restraint of children with disabilities, or medical conditions, in motor vehicles* include a new comprehensive assessment guide, including considerations for children with complex and challenging behaviours.

"Today's launch is an important step for the recognition and protection of children with disabilities and medical conditions," said Professor Christine Kilpatrick, Chief Executive Officer, The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Bernie Geary, said the updated standard will enable prescribers to recommend the most suitable restraint option for children with a disability or medical condition.

"Our number one priority for children with additional needs is for them to be able to travel safely and comfortably when being transported in a car," Mr Geary said.

"According to a survey conducted by the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, in 25 per cent of cases, families of children with additional needs were putting their child at risk by not purchasing the recommended child restraint.

"The new standard will increase community awareness for prescribers and parents alike and will enable a tailored approach to the specific needs of the child," Mr Geary said.

Mr Blair said the guidelines in the Joint Australian/New Zealand give restraint options in order of preference and covers children up to the age of 16 years.

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Media Contact **Nicholas Davy, 0405 506 457**
Head of Public Affairs

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