



The Constable Care Child Safety Foundation (Inc.)
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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONSTRUCTION TO START ON WA'S MUCH-NEEDED ROAD AND TRANSPORT SAFETY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Few people realise that road trauma is the leading cause of death for children in WA and the second leading cause of hospitalisation for serious injury.

WA has one of the highest road tolls in Australia by population, and tragically our children make up a disproportionate number of these deaths when compared to other states and territories. More than 20% of all Australian children who died as a result of road trauma in 2015, were killed on WA's roads.

To address this urgent issue, The Honourable Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education, together with VIP's and key stakeholders, will today officially 'turn the soil' to mark the start of construction of Western Australia's first transport safety learning centre at the Constable Care Child Safety Foundation headquarters site in Maylands.

Based on the best-practice education principles of learning through play and simulation, the new 3,500 sqm state-of-the-art Constable Care Safety School will recreate Perth's streets in detail, including scale buildings, rail carriage and platform and fully functional rail crossing, working traffic lights, road signs and pedestrian crossings, as well as a bus and bus stop and most other road elements that a child pedestrian or cyclist will encounter.

Constable Care Child Safety Foundation CEO David Gribble explained:

"Over 41% of Australia's child pedestrian fatalities in 2015 happened in WA, so clearly a lot more needs to be done to educate our kids about sharing the road environment with cars. The Safety School early intervention centre will use best-practice learning through play and simulation to teach children to be more aware when walking or cycling, as well as providing reinforcement for the classroom road safety curriculum already being taught in schools."

"Making the Safety School an exciting excursion destination for children is the key to it being successful, and the new centre will incorporate the latest in technology-based learning, including a ride-on Transperth virtual train simulator and augmented reality-enhanced walking tours that showcase Perth's history and our community." Mr Gribble said.

A community fundraising process over two years has secured the support of major partners WA Department of Education, Lotterywest, Bayswater Community Financial Services, Brookfield Rail, Quadrant Energy and Downermouchel, raising the \$1.6 million needed to build the centre. Other key stakeholders include School Drug Education and Road Aware, Transperth, Main Roads WA, WestCycle, KidSafe WA and Heritage Perth, all of whom have committed as curriculum and site development partners, with the project intended to be operational from late-2016.

Once operating, the Safety School expects 20,000-30,000 children to take part in structured learning programs each year, with up to 150 children visiting each day to learn and practice pedestrian, bike,



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bus, rail and public transport safety skills. Users will include school groups of up to 60 children twice per day, with early learning centres, out of school care groups, vacation care programs, parents and families using the centre during non-school hours.

For further information visit www.constablecare.org.au

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For images, interviews or for further information, please contact:

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WA Road Fatalities Facts and Figures

- Road trauma is the leading cause of death for children in WA and the second leading cause of hospitalisation for serious injury.
- Over 20% of Australia's child road deaths occurred in WA during 2015, but WA has only 11% of Australia's children.
- Over 41% of Australia's child pedestrian deaths in 2015 took place on WA roads.
- Over 33% of pedestrians killed in WA were children, compared to NSW and Victoria where it was less than 6%.

(Australian Road Deaths Database 2015)

Notes to editors

- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation is a registered harm prevention charity that delivers award winning safety education programs free of charge to school students throughout Western Australia.
- The Foundation continues to support the growing needs of children, youth and families by developing ongoing programs and products relevant to the challenges faced by our youth to ensure a safer, brighter future for those living in Western Australia.
- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation celebrated 25 years of service in 2014. It was established in 1989 by Sergeant Ross Pengilly and launched by WA Police.
- Free services provided include; Constable Care primary educational puppet and actor shows, Theatrical Response Group interactive performances and intensive workshops for Years 7 to 12 students and Comfort Packs for children in distress.
- Constable Care Child Safety Awards is an biennial independent state-wide awards program to celebrate the endeavours of individuals, communities, corporate organisations, emergency services professionals, local government or state government agencies and education programs, which protect children and young people from harm.
- The Foundation also provides, fee for service, Lost Child Points – a meeting point service and a safe refuge for children, should they become separated from their parents or guardians at major events in WA.