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Reference: FCR TF18/716 - D18/25716



Director
Standards & Policy
Consumer Product Safety Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

Dear Sir or Madam

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in relation to miniature motorbikes (monkey bikes) and the *Review of the permanent ban on miniature motorbikes (monkey bikes) with unsafe design features*.

One of the functions of the QFCC is to promote and advocate the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, particularly vulnerable young children. As part of its child death functions, the QFCC is responsible for maintaining the Queensland Child Death Register, which contains information relating to the deaths of all children and young people in Queensland since 1 January 2004. Further, the QFCC is able to make recommendations, arising from keeping the register and conducting research under this section, about laws, policies, practices and services.

The Child Death Register contains information relating to the deaths of three children in Queensland while riding miniature motorbikes. Specifications for each of the individual motorbikes were not available to the QFCC at the time of reporting, and as such, the QFCC is unable to ascertain if the miniature motorbikes involved in these incidents meet the definition of a miniature motorbike as outlined in the ban. The age of the riders varied from 1–4 years to 10–14 years. Two of these deaths occurred subsequent to the introduction of the ban.

The QFCC supports Option 2 (Revoke the permanent ban and make a new regulatory instrument) as outlined in the Consultation Paper.

The suggested inclusions in Option 2, to adopt the definition in the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*, introducing a requirement for a speed limiting device and including requirements for warnings and instructions are well-considered and would address the risk factors identified from the information held within the Child Death Register.

If you or your officers have any queries in relation to this submission, they may contact Ms Fiona Boorman, Manager Child Death Prevention, on 07 3900 6030 or Fiona.Boorman@qfcc.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Vardon
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission

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