



SuSTAIInY: Supporting successful transition
of children to adult seatbelts in cars – February 2024



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- In Australia, half of children aged 7-12 are moved out of booster seats before a safe seatbelt fit is achieved, which increases the risk of injury.
- The lack of clear guidance around when to transition children out of booster seats means parents must decide how and when to make the change.

Background:

- Australian law allows children to move out of child restraints into vehicle seats with seatbelts at age seven.
- Best practice recommends that children stay in child restraints until they achieve a safe seatbelt fit.
- There are currently no tools designed using best practice and user-informed resources to support accurate parental assessments of a child's seatbelt fit.
- There is confusion amongst parents about when to transition a child and how to determine a safe seatbelt fit.

Aims:

- The objective of this project is to inform the refinement of new informative materials designed to communicate information about the safe transition of a child from using child restraint systems (i.e. booster seats) to using an adult seat with lap/sash belt alone.

Methods:

- The program will repeatedly test up to 10 groups of 10 participants as they undertake a series of three tasks while verbally describing their thought process.
- Each round of consumer testing will involve observed fitting and securing of a doll into an adult seat with lap/sash belt and understanding and providing feedback on the information materials provided. Outcomes of each round will inform the refinement of the draft prototype to achieve 90% comprehension and acceptability.

Impact:

- This research will make fundamental contributions to understanding how to communicate effectively with parents to ensure optimised decision-making regarding seatbelts for their children.

Project Cycle:

January – August 2024

Partners:

The George Institute for Global Health, Australia

UNSW Sydney, Australia

Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)

Supporters:

Australian Research Council

Principal Investigator:

Professor Julie Brown

Contact:

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