



Mobility & Accessibility
for Children in Australia®

Monday 22 April 2024

Ballarat organisations first to undertake new workplace road safety training

Ballarat care sector organisations will be the first in Australia to access new training designed to improve workplace road safety.

[Mobility and Accessibility for Children in Australia Ltd](#) (MACA) has launched the new online training course, *Workplace Road Safety Leadership*, with funding from the Victorian Government's Community Road Safety Grants Program.

It is being undertaken by Ballarat allied health and disability support organisations before being rolled out across Victoria and nationally during National Road Safety Week in May.

The two-week course has been designed for organisations whose staff undertake work-related travel and who may also be accountable or responsible for the transport of children with disability on our roads.

MACA Chief Executive, Helen Lindner, said that the course is part of MACA's broader responsibility and commitment as an organisation to reduce road trauma in Australia.

"While our vision is that all children have the right to safe and equitable transport, improving road safety culture in organisations is a key enabler that will help us to achieve this vision," she said.

Mr Lindner said hundreds of thousands of Australians use a vehicle for work every day, but tragically, travelling on our roads is by far the most significant contributor to work-related injury and death in our country.

"When a vehicle is used for work purposes, it becomes a workplace - and statistics show that vehicles can be some of the most dangerous workplaces in our community", Ms Lindner said.

"However, every death and every injury on our roads is preventable. Our new workplace road safety training is designed to give workplaces knowledge, information, and tools to help prevent workplace deaths and injuries on our roads.

"Our aim is to raise awareness of road safety as an important work health and safety issue and help organisations to identify and manage vehicle related risks."

The course covers topics including the vehicle as a workplace, work health and safety obligations, key hazards and risks and how to manage them, and embedding a culture of road safety into organisations.

Stephanie Van Velzen, Practice Director of Uplift Therapy in Ballarat, said that as her team travel regularly to see children and their families, and also occasionally transport clients, workplace road safety is important.

She said that "every member of the senior management team will be completing the new Workplace Road Safety Leadership course to ensure best practice in workplace safety for both staff and clients."



Mobility & Accessibility
for Children in Australia®

Uplift Therapy plan to introduce a new road safety policy and work collaboratively as a team on risk reduction and management strategies. They will also provide education for staff, families and others in the community who support children with disability.

“I not only have the responsibility to keep our children and families safe, but also the responsibility of safety for our 15 staff members,” Ms Van Velzen said.

“As well as our commitment to workplace road safety, all our occupational therapists have completed MACA’s specialist training course. This course enables our staff to assess and prescribe for children with disabilities’ motor vehicle transport needs.”

-ENDS-

About MACA

Established in 2019, Mobility and Accessibility for Children in Australia Ltd (MACA) is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to driving research and development to advance the rights of children (under 16 years) with disabilities and medical conditions to safe and equitable transport.

MACA is leading a significant research and development program to advance research, knowledge, consumer information, product availability and training to improve road safety and community participation for children with disability and their families.