



Mobility & Accessibility
for Children & Adults

Friday 13 December 2024

Australian charity receives global recognition for road safety impact

National charity Mobility and Accessibility for Children in Australia Ltd, now known as Mobility and Accessibility for Children and Adults Ltd (MACA), has been internationally recognised for its groundbreaking work to improve transport safety for children and young people with disability.

MACA Chief Executive Helen Lindner and Director Emma Clarkson were awarded a prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award at a ceremony in London on Tuesday for MACA's "outstanding" national program, just five years after the charity was established. The awards recognise achievement and innovation across the world.

"We're honoured to receive this award, not only as recognition for MACA, but for the families of children and young people with disability who have been left behind when it comes to road safety," MACA Chief Executive, Helen Lindner, said.

"Everything we do is to advance the rights of children and young people with disability to safe and equitable transport."

The award recognised MACA's national program to improve safe road use for children and young people with disability. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, the work program was developed in response to research that showed little improvement over the last two decades in the way children with disability are transported.

MACA's program focuses on building capacity and capability of health professionals and industry, strengthening policies and systems, advancing knowledge and driving innovation to address systemic barriers.

This includes a website of independent information and resources, a suite of training courses, and world-leading research translated into practical guidance. All resources have been informed by the lived experience of children and young people with disability and their families.

"We know how hard it has been for professionals and families to find clear, independent and evidence-based information about safe transport for children with disability," Ms Lindner said.

"There is no silver bullet to solve decades of neglect in this field – but through evidence-based information, training, research and advocacy, we're seeing significant progress towards safer and more equitable transport for children and young people with disability."

The award comes just a day before MACA's presentation at the 2024 Protection of Children in Cars Conference in Munich, Germany.

After being the sole presenter on the transport needs of children with disability at the past two conferences, MACA was pleased to see a dedicated section of the conference program this year focused on this area. This brought together industry and preeminent experts in this field on a global stage.

"We're proud to be driving a global conversation about the transport needs of children with disability and making sure we share our knowledge to improve safety for children everywhere," Ms Lindner said.

"Every child has the right to travel safely and comfortably, and to access all that our community has to offer."

Enquiries: sarah@macahub.org