



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
SPECIALIST ENFORCEMENT &  
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Mr David Driscoll  
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation  
16-32 Parliamentary Place  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Driscoll,

Acting Commander Kristine Leo and Acting Senior Sergeant Chris Sammells provided evidence to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation on Monday 13 September 2010 in relation to the *Road Traffic Amendment Regulations (No.2) 2010*.

As requested by the Honourable Mr Jim Chown MLC, statistical data relating to the issuance of infringements and cautions for seatbelt offences is contained below.

Table 1 Restraint use of fatally injured persons in WA, 2010.

Percentages

	Metro	Regional WA	State
Not Worn	11%	30%	21%
Worn	89%	70%	79%
Known Total	100%	100%	

Table 1 provides the percentage of fatalities where the injured person was utilising appropriate restraints in 2010 (calendar year to 12 September). Appropriate restraint use refers to seatbelts for drivers and passengers of motor vehicles and helmets for motorcycle riders and pillion. The data is restricted to "known" cases where the restraint use has been positively determined by the Attending Officer.

This data is consistent with previous research which indicates that restraint use is relatively high, especially in metropolitan areas, but lower in rural and remote areas. This should be considered in a context of over representation in fatal crashes of drivers who display high risk behaviours such as speeding, alcohol consumption prior to driving and lower use of restraints. Observational studies in the metropolitan area indicate that restraint use is relatively high in comparison to restraint use in fatal crash studies.

Table 2 Restraint use, Briefs, Infringements and Cautions issued in WA, 2007-2010.

	Briefs	Infringements	Cautions	Total
2010 Ytd	314	4,810	4,006	9,130
2009	846	7,617	4,513	12,976
2008	1,167	9,395	2,717	13,279
2007	1,106	10,932	2,761	14,799

Table 2 shows the count of briefs, infringements and cautions issued for seatbelt offences in WA, 2007 to 2010 (calendar year to 12 September). The annual counts need to be interpreted with a context of changing infringement amounts and instructions that a no tolerance approach should be taken in relation to seatbelt cautions.

I trust this information is of value to the committee in its deliberations. Any inquiries may be directed to Acting Senior Sergeant Chris Sammells at the Traffic Policy Unit on 6274 8646.

Yours sincerely



**M L FYFE**  
**ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**  
**SPECIALIST ENFORCEMENT & OPERATIONS**

17. September 2010