

# PROGRAM RATES CHILD RESTRAINTS

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD RESTRAINTS MEET THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD, WRITES HELEN LINDNER.**

Kindergarten Parents Victoria recently received an insider's view of the stringent processes that child safety restraints go through to meet Australian Standards.

Road Safety project co-ordinator Zora Marko – who manages the Starting Out Safety early childhood road safety education program which KPV is delivering on behalf of VicRoads – recently visited the New South Wales Roads and Maritime Services Crashlab facility to view crash testing of child restraints.

Crashlab tests all child restraints in Australia to see if they meet the Australian Standard for child restraints, known as the Australian and New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS) 1754 *Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles*.

To comply with the Victorian child restraint road rules a child must travel in a child restraint that meets AS/NZS 1754.

Only AS/NZS 1754 child restraints are able to be sold by child restraint retailers in Australia.

Australia's tough testing regime ensures that all child restraints meeting the Australian Standard offer good protection in a crash.

However, the level of protection and ease of use of each child restraint varies.

## **CHILD RESTRAINT EVALUATION PROGRAM**

The Child Restraint Evaluation Program (CREP) tests most child restraints that meet the Australian Standard and provides a 'star' rating for the level of protection and ease of use for each child restraint.

A copy of the CREP brochure is being distributed with this edition of *Preschool Matters*.

Each feature tested is scored on a scale of average, above average, good or excellent.

Parents and carers can now make an informed decision when selecting the safest child restraint for their child.



Visit the CREP website [www.crep.com.au](http://www.crep.com.au) for more information.

You can order free CREP brochures *Child Restraints Safety Ratings – Your guide to buying child restraints* and a CREP brochure holder for your early childhood service at [bookshop.vic.gov.au](http://bookshop.vic.gov.au)

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