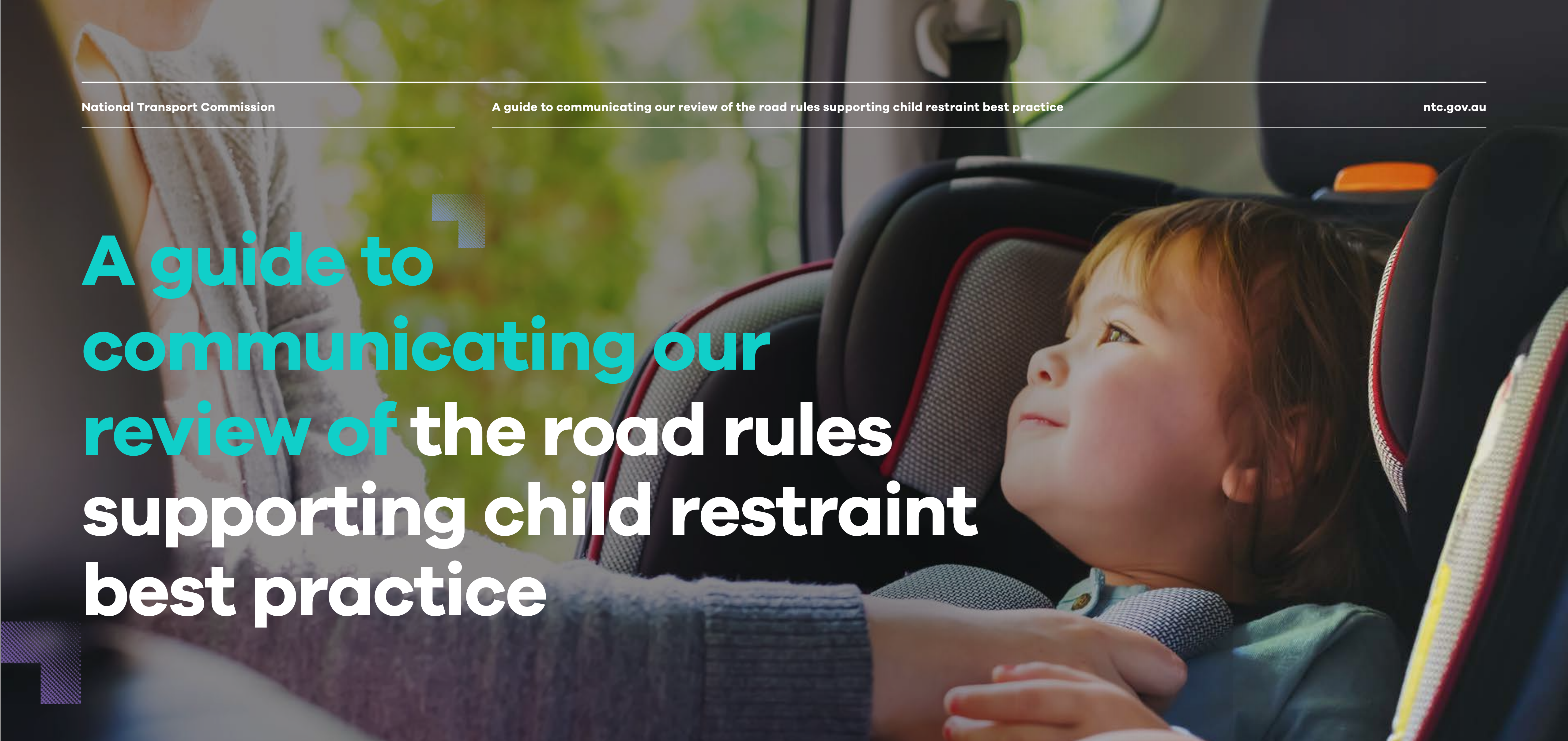
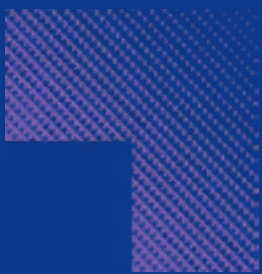
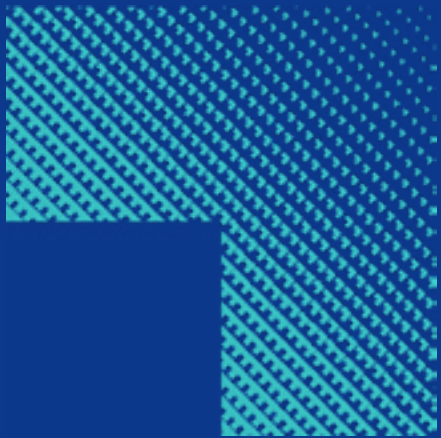


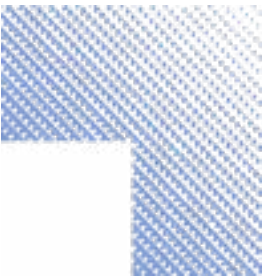
A young child with dark hair is sitting in a car seat, looking out the window. The car seat is dark with red and yellow accents. The background is a blurred view of green foliage outside the car window.

A guide to communicating our review of the road rules supporting child restraint best practice

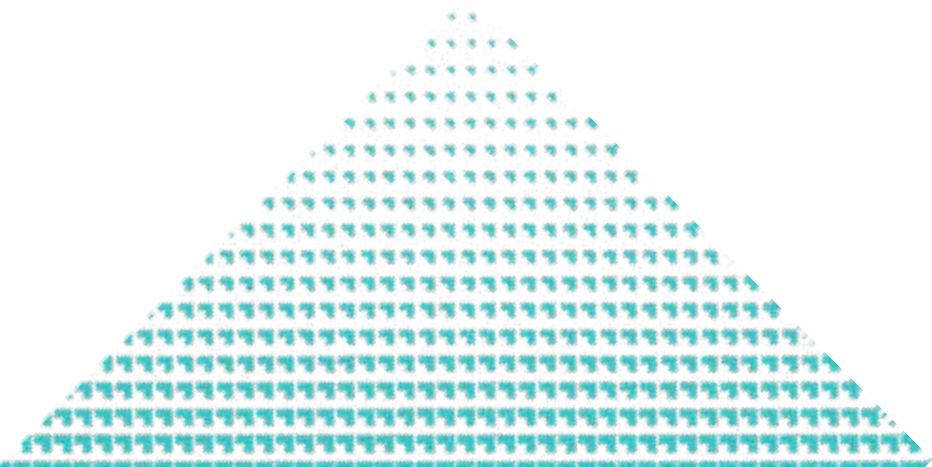
This pack has been designed to provide our valued stakeholders with a comprehensive kit to support our public consultation on improving child restraint rules. You will find background and project information, key messages, launch communications, social media tiles and other resources ready to use and share.



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Key information

BACKGROUND

This project will review the child restraint sections of the Australian Road Rules (ARR) to ensure they reflect the latest safety research and best practice. The review will apply to all passengers under 16 years old, including those with medical conditions and disabilities, with the aim of making the rules safer, clearer, and more inclusive.

The child restraint rules within the ARR were last subject to a comprehensive review in 2007, with changes to the model ARRs introduced in 2009-2010. Since that time there have been significant advances in child restraint design, as well as in research and evidence-based recommendations.

ABOUT THIS STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION KIT

This kit has been developed by the National Transport Commission (NTC) to support our key stakeholders and partners in their communication activities. It offers resources and materials to help promote the public consultation on an [issues paper](#) which proposes updates to the current child restraint guidelines.

The contents of the kit may support you with consistent and clear communication to industry and project stakeholders that may be impacted by potential changes to the rules.

All collateral may be used across your online, social media and printed material to help promote engagement and submissions for the project.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There will be a public consultation period from Monday 27 October to Friday 19 December 2025. During this time, the NTC will be accepting submissions on the [issues paper](#) regarding child restraint guidelines.

The issues paper focuses on the latest evidence and guidelines on:

- the appropriate and correct use of child restraints
- seating position and transitioning to the use of adult seat belts
- children with a disability or medical condition, who cannot use standard restraints or seatbelts are appropriately covered

Stakeholders and the community can have a say via [our website](#).

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

This stakeholder kit has some messaging and digital media tools you can use to help raise awareness of the child restraint review.

We encourage you to:

- Let your stakeholders, members and communities know they can have a say via our website between Monday 27 October to Friday 19 December 2025. We have prepared some suggested key messages to help.
- Encourage your stakeholders to join in one of our webinars.
- Feature information about the review in your newsletters, social media or on your website. We have provided a range of content you can use.
- Share posts about the consultation period on your social media platforms.
- Direct people to the NTC websites for more information.



Key messages

These suggested talking points have been developed to help you communicate with your stakeholders about the consultation on supporting child restraint best practices.

GENERAL MESSAGES RELEVANT TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- Australia can do better when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable car passengers by improving the rules around child restraints.
- Child restraints and seat belts reduce injuries and deaths for children travelling in cars on our roads.
- To make sure we have world-class guidelines based on evidence, the NTC is updating the Australian Road Rules (ARRs) to ensure child restraint guidelines are current, easy to understand and practical.
- This review of vehicle restraints applies to all passengers under the age of 16 and will include those with medical conditions and disabilities.
- The NTC will be engaging with advocacy groups, industry, health professionals and governments on the changes that can bring Australia in line with global best practice.
- There will be several opportunities to provide feedback during our review.
- There will be a public consultation from 27 October to 19 December 2025 to gather feedback on evidence-based options for child restraints.
- We will have a second public consultation in the first half of 2026. At this time, we will present an impact analysis for feedback based on further, refined options. This will underpin any changes to the road rules.
- All final recommendations will go to transport ministers for

approval in the second half of 2026.

- To find out more, visit [our website](#), watch [a short video](#) on our work, [register](#) to join a webinar, [subscribe](#) for news and updates or email us at: childrestraintsreviewproject@ntc.gov.au



Additional background information

This can be downloaded [here](#).

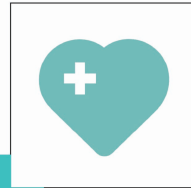
The review will have a specific focus on:



Appropriate use of child restraints



Children using adult seatbelts and their seating position



Improving the level of protection for children with medical conditions and disabilities

2007

Child restraint and seat belt rules were last reviewed in 2007, with changes introduced in 2009.

75%

of fatally injured children were not restraint in accordance with best practice for their age.

Queensland Family & Child Commission, Report into child road crash passenger deaths, 2024

1 in 3

34 percent of children move out of a booster seat for reasons that do not align with safest practice.

National Child Health Poll, The Royal Children's Hospital, 2025



In Australia, land transport crashes are the leading cause of death in children between 1 and 14 years

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2024



States and territories have different rules on car restraints for children with a disability.

Austroroads, 2025

Over the last two decades, there have been no improvements in the requirements for the safe transport of children with disabilities.

Downie, et al, 2020

Launch communication - Newsletter

Here is an example of wording that we included in our newsletter to key stakeholders. This text is indicative only and can be used as a basis for sharing with your networks, adding further content that is relevant to your particular audience.

We have produced some newsletter banners, [download them here](#).





Improving child restraint rules

Newsletter | [ntc.gov.au](#)

Title/subject line:
Have Your Say on Child Restraint Safety in the Australian Road Rules

Have Your Say on Child Restraint Safety in the Australian Road Rules

The National Transport Commission (NTC) has reviewed the child restraint provisions in the Australian Road Rules and is now inviting submissions on its recently released issues paper.

This review follows industry feedback that the current rules are outdated and no longer aligned with national or international best practice in child restraint safety. In response, Australian Transport Ministers have tasked the NTC with exploring evidence-based improvements and best practice recommendations to ensure the rules better protect children on our roads.

The issues paper is open for public consultation from Monday 27 October to Friday 19 December 2025.

The paper has four focus areas:

- Appropriate use of child restraints
- Children using adult seatbelts
- Children travelling in the front seat
- Improving protections for children with medical conditions and disabilities

To have your say visit the project website. We encourage all interested individuals, organisations, and stakeholders to review the paper and provide feedback.

You can also register here for an upcoming webinar which will step through some of the key issues within the paper with time for questions about the consultation process.

If you have any questions in the meantime you can contact the project team at: childrestraintsreviewproject@ntc.gov.au.

[Read more about the revised Standards here](#)

Follow us for updates





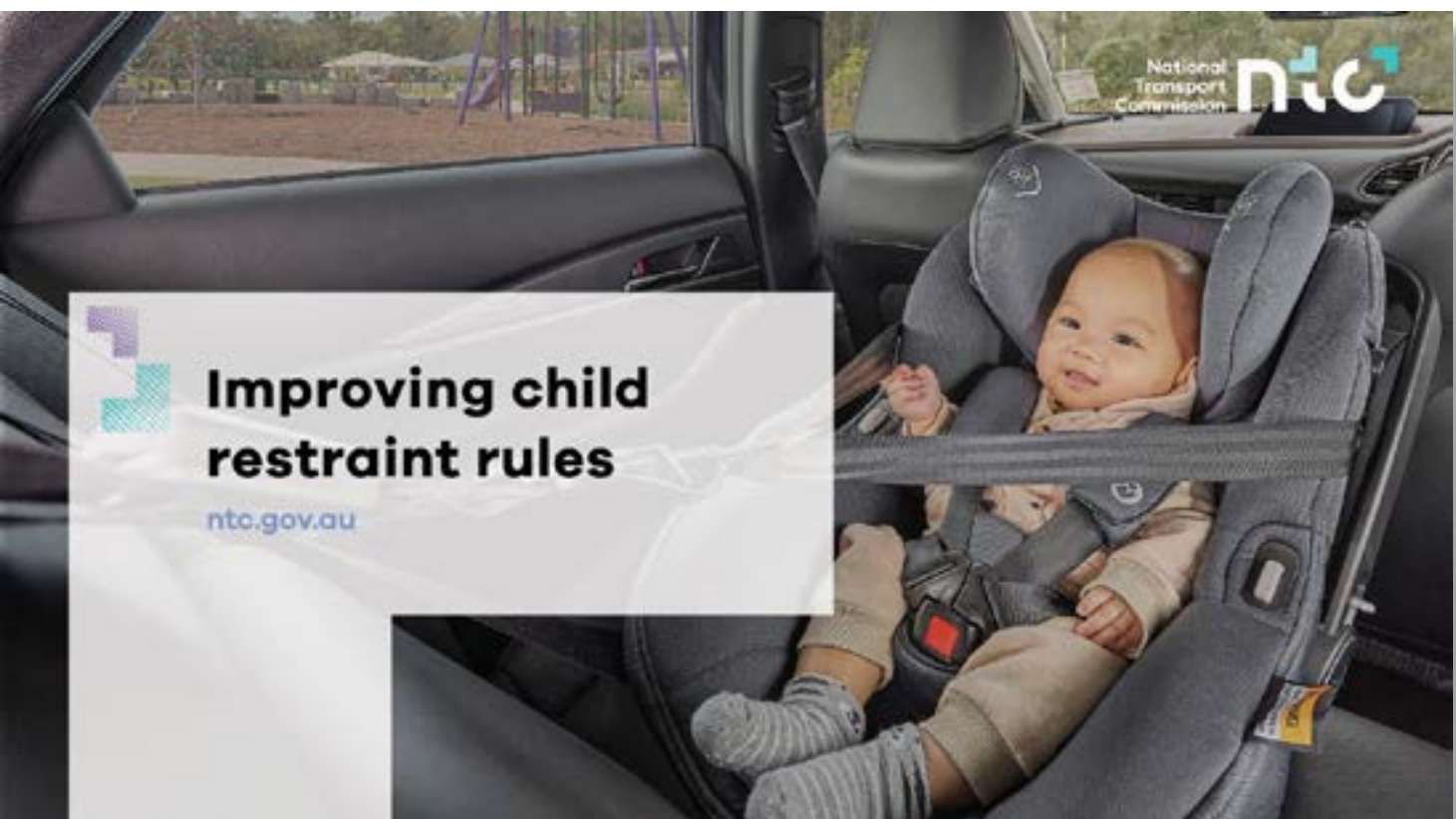
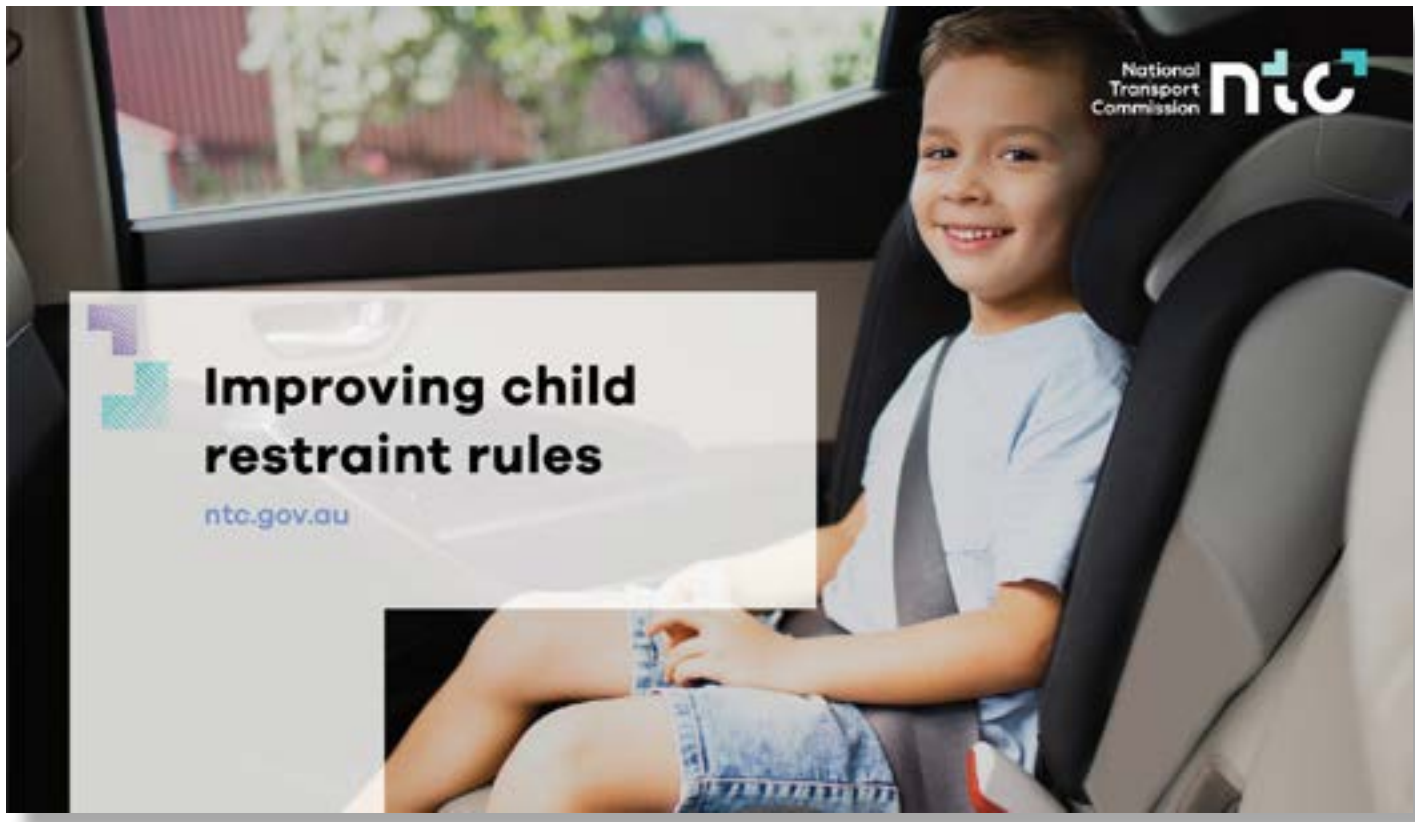
Social media concepts

Stakeholders are invited to download and use the social media tiles developed by the NTC.

[Download the social tiles here.](#)

You may also like to reshare with your LinkedIn network, information the NTC posts on our account to further help raise awareness.

You can visit the NTC’s [LinkedIn here.](#)



Frequently asked questions

Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS WITHIN THIS REVIEW?

The NTC has provided recommendations on three key areas of guidance:

- the appropriate and correct use of child restraints
- transitioning to the use of adult seat belts and seating position
- improving protections for children with a disability or medical condition.

Q. WHERE IS THE INFORMATION I NEED?

All the information you need will be available within this stakeholdr kit and on [the project webpage](#).

Q. HOW DO I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

You can provide a submission on [the project webpage](#), or you can fill in [a brief survey](#) that will go to the project team to consider in their analysis.

Q. HOW LONG IS THE CONSULTATION OPEN FOR?

Submissions will be accepted for 8 weeks from Monday 27 October to Friday 19 December 2025.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS?

All feedback will be assessed by the project team and incorporated into an options paper which will open up to another consultation next year.

Q. WHEN WILL THE RECOMMENDATIONS GO TO MINISTERS?

The NTC will provide any final recommendations to ministers by the end of 2026. It will then be up to Ministers to decide how these recommendations will be actioned.



Supporting resources

ISSUES PAPER

The NTC has published the [issues paper](#) via our website on Monday 27 October 2025. It provides a comprehensive picture of all the considerations, research and recommendations that make up this review.

We are currently seeking your feedback on the paper via [our website](#).

FACT SHEETS

We have prepared three supporting fact sheets that include information on each key issue to help people understand the project and provide feedback during the public consultation.

- [Fact Sheet 1: Appropriate use of child restraints](#)
- [Fact Sheet 2: Children using adult seatbelts and their seating position](#)
- [Fact Sheet 3: Improving protections for children with medical conditions and disabilities](#)

FURTHER RESOURCES

- We have published a [summary of the issues](#). It is a quick and easy way to understand the overall focus of the project and the topics the review is covering.
- We developed a short video to help give further insight into the work. [Watch it here](#).

WEBINAR

NTC will host a webinar on at 1:00pm on Thursday, 13 November 2025 to outline some of the key elements of the review and provide opportunities for questions. Anyone is welcome to [register via this link](#).

Registrations close on Monday, 10 November 2025. You can nominate questions when you register. These will be answered either during the webinar or after the session.

STAY INFORMED

Stay updated on the progress of the project by:

- Visiting [our website](#)
- Following [our LinkedIn](#)
- Subscribing to [our newsletter](#)



Contact

For more information, or to ask questions, please contact us at:

E: childrestraintsreviewproject@ntc.gov.au

