

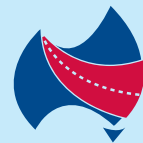


# DRIVEWAY SAFETY

Are your kids at risk?



Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure  
and Transport



**NRSC**  
NATIONAL ROAD  
SAFETY COUNCIL

This publication is intended to raise awareness only.  
The Australian Government emphasises that there is no  
substitute for adult supervision of children at all times.

## Many small children, particularly toddlers, are run over in home driveways.

The vehicle is usually only moving slowly and is often being driven by a parent, family member or friend.

We don't think of small children as being in danger in such a familiar and caring environment – but they are!

Sometimes the child is outside when the parents think she or he is secure in the house.

Small children are naturally curious and want to see what is going on.

At other times the child is in sight or in a 'safe' spot one moment, and then suddenly in the path of a moving vehicle.

Toddlers sometimes move surprisingly quickly, and they have no real understanding of danger.

Testing has shown that there is not just a blind spot, but a large 'blind zone' behind most cars.

Even if your car has parking sensors or a video camera fitted, you may not notice a small child until it is too late to stop.

Children are run over by vehicles moving forward as well as reversing.

Keep in mind that a small child may not be visible directly in front of your car.



## What can you do to prevent such a tragedy?

- Always supervise your children when a vehicle is to be moved forwards or backwards – hold their hand or hold them close to keep them safe.
- If you're the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle with you while you move it.
- A driveway is actually a small road – discourage children from using it as a play area.
- Where possible, prevent children from entering the garage and driveway from the house – consider using self-closing doors, fencing and gates.
- Be aware of your vehicle's blind zones and learn the best way to use the mirrors and any other reversing aids in your vehicle.<sup>1</sup>
- There can never be a substitute for close supervision of children, although reversing cameras and other vehicle technologies can help drivers avoid rearward collisions.

<sup>1</sup> The NRMA Insurance Reversing Visibility Index is a useful source of information, [www.iagresearch.com.au](http://www.iagresearch.com.au).



## Facts and figures

- On average, seven children are killed each year and 60 are seriously injured after being hit or run over by a motor vehicle at home.
- Very young children are at greatest risk – 90% of children killed and 70% of those seriously injured are under five years of age.
- In cases where a child is killed:
  - half the vehicles involved are cars and a third are four-wheel-drives
  - two-thirds are reversing
  - two-thirds are driven by a parent or other relative.
- Many children who survive these incidents sustain severe and permanent injuries.

Source: *Child pedestrian safety: driveway deaths and low-speed vehicle run-overs, Australia 2001–10* (Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, [www.bitre.gov.au](http://www.bitre.gov.au)).

