



What the law says and safety advice for bicycles, rollerblades, scooters and skateboards

Information for parents and carers about safety on wheels

Bicycles

What the law says

Helmets

All riders of bicycles must wear a helmet displaying a sticker saying the helmet has been approved by Standards Australia.

Riding on the footpath

Children under 12 and those older riders who are accompanying them may ride their bikes on the footpath unless there are signs that specifically prohibit cycling. Riders must keep to the left and they must give way to pedestrians.

Riding on the road

Cyclists 12 years and over must not ride on the footpath unless it is signposted as a shared footpath. They should use the road. When riding on the road they should keep to the left, as traffic does, and they should use a marked bicycle lane wherever possible. Bicycles must be fitted with a working brake and a bell, and if used at night the bike must have front and rear lights and a rear reflector. Bicycles can be fitted with power assistance up to 200W. A vehicle with more power than that has to comply with appropriate registration requirements.

Safety advice

Helmets must be securely fastened. Make sure the helmet fits correctly and check it regularly for damage.

Cyclists must make sure they don't get in the way of pedestrians. They have to take extra care so that their cycling isn't dangerous, especially to older people.

Until they are 10 years old, children should cycle in a safe place off the road and away from vehicles and driveways. Children between 10 and 12 should do their cycling away from busy roads. Cyclists should wear a bright helmet and bright clothing and have extra equipment such as flags and reflectors to make themselves more visible.

Scooters

Children under 12 may ride a scooter on the footpath unless specifically prohibited by signs. For scooter riders aged 12 or more, the laws described above for cyclists apply. Powered scooters cannot be registered and therefore can only be used on private land.

It's best to do scooter riding away from roads because scooters have limited stopping power. Areas designated for scooter riding are best. On the footpath, be careful of pedestrians, especially the elderly. Anyone who rides a scooter should wear a helmet and protective gear such as knee pads and elbow pads.

Skateboards and rollerblades

Skateboards and rollerblades may be used on the footpath regardless of the rider's age, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting them.

Skateboarding on the road can only be done on minor roads (those with no lane lines marked) and can only be done between dawn and dusk.

It's best to ride a skateboard and rollerblades in areas set aside and designed for their use. Anyone who rides a skateboard or rollerblades should wear a helmet and protective gear such as knee pads and elbow pads.