

**TASKFORCESUBMISSION:** submission

**NAME:** Robert Eke

**POSITION:** CoConvenor

**ORGANISATION:** Wheels of Justice Cycling Advocacy

**SUBMISSION1:** A pivotal activity in engaging populations to partake in healthy pursuits is cycling. In Australia most homes have a single bicycle (or more) and instead of using it for personal mobility Australians drive vehicles instead. (sourceCPF). Most journeys under 5klms could be undertaken by bicycle, we chose to drive for the bulk of them. (Cycling Promotion Fund-BFA data)

This outcome is part cultural, part habit but mainly a product of the law, where drivers have created a siege mentality against perceived vulnerable road users ( ... -Transport Engineer). As drivers have little fear of any punishment for harrasing riders there is a serious problem. This is in respect to liability on the roadways which allows drivers of motorised vehicles to harrass riders and discourage participation at the levels we as a society would prefer if we were to really act to improve our nation's general health. We at Wheels of Justice urge you to seek reformation of the road liability laws which would encourage greater participation for on road cycling by changing the liability fo motorists akin to that of the EU, where the liability is prima facie with the driver of the motorised vehicle. This does not exonerate riders of bicycles, it does however make drivers think twice about acting aggressively and violently towards vulnerable road users and would substantailly increase bicycle participation for commuting, recreation, utility cycling and school journeys.

Without this Australia will continue to be an obese nation relying on cars for the most basic of transport, something we cannot afford. It is a sensible option for you to ensure is invoked nationally as a key aspect of your strategy to make Australia a healthier population and I encourage your Taskforce to see this through. The measure not only is easily put in place, it provides simplicity in education, enforcement and in the speedy and positve change of attitude amongst Australia's sedentary car driving population.

Cycling is NOT a dangerous activity, it in fact is less riskier than getting out of bed,(CPF) however, myths and misconceptions exist and I am sure also exist in the minds of some of your taskforce members... rational and sensible examination of the unbiased research on the benefits of cycling will clearly show it as a seriously important measure in addressing both our nation's general health and other aspects of transport and community living vital to an historically vigorous nation like Australia, which sadly has slipped into a sedentary, overweight, car dependant and medication reliant nation.

best regards  
Rob Eke, AIMM

Committee Bicycle Federation of Australia [www.bfa.asn.au](http://www.bfa.asn.au)  
Coconvenor Ride of Silence [www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org)  
Media Liaison (radio) Committee, YarraBUG, Bicycle Users Group [Yarrabug.org](http://Yarrabug.org)  
Coconvenor Wheels of Justice, Cycling Safety Advocacy group and Media Monitor  
[www.woj.com.au](http://www.woj.com.au)

**PRIVACY:** yes

**SUBMIT:** Submit