

From: glenn_osboldstone
To: robert.mcdonald@parliament.vic.gov.au
Date: 19/04/2012 11:40 PM
Subject: Submission regarding the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012

Dear Sir

This submission is to express my support for the above bill. As a cyclist who has been the victim of a car dooring (and several near misses) and as the author of the Bicycle and Skater Law Chapter of the Law Handbook (published by the Fitzroy Legal Service), I believe I am uniquely placed to comment on this issue.

Approximately 6 years ago I was riding up Milton St, just off Dudley St in the CBD (near the Victoria Market), when a woman failed to look before she opened her car door. I crashed into it and then fell onto the road, injuring my leg and totalling my bike. An ambulance attended and I received first aid to my leg and for shock.

Following that crash I am extremely cautious riding past parked cars. It is one reason I do not ride to work as much as I used to.

In researching my bike law chapter I have come across numerous reports and examples of similar incidents, in staggering numbers. Almost every rider I know has experienced either a collision or a near miss from car doors. Clearly the existing penalties are insufficient as a general or even specific deterrent. Until drivers and their passengers face significant fines and cases are publicised widely, nothing is going to change.

I fully support moving the offence from the Road Rules into the Road Safety Act with its associated increase in seriousness. Significantly raising the penalty and attaching demerit points is also long overdue for such an offence.

To avoid duplicitous offences, it seems necessary for current Road Rule 269(3) to be removed from the Road Safety Road Rules 2009.

Sincerely

Glenn Osboldstone