

## *Child Restraint Hiring Program*

*An initiative of the Moree Plains Shire Road Safety Program*



# INFORMATION PACK

To book a child restraint please

Phone: (02) 6757 3222

Fax: (02) 6752 3934 or

Email: [council@mpsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@mpsc.nsw.gov.au)

To make a booking, please complete the Booking Form and return as soon as possible to  
Moree Plains Shire Council, PO Box 420, Moree, NSW, 2400.

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## List of Contact Persons and Licensed Restraint Fitters

### Contact Persons

Moree Plains Shire Road Safety Officer

**Renee McMillan**

Phone: 02 6757 3277

Fax: (02) 6752 3934

Email: [renee.mcmillan@mpsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:renee.mcmillan@mpsc.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au)

### Licensed Restraint Fitters

#### Moree

**Brett O'Neill Auto Repairs**

321B Gosport Street,

Moree NSW 2400

Phone: (02) 6752 7733

#### Narrabri

**Kaputar Motors**

121 Barwan Street,

Narrabri NSW 2390

Phone: (02) 67922514

#### Inverell

**Gaukroger & Sons**

28-30 Vivian Street,

Inverell NSW 2360

Phone: (02) 6722 2722

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## National child restraint laws – FAQs

Information from the NSW Centre for Road Safety Website

<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/childcarseats/index.html>

- Children up to the age of six months must be secured in an approved rearward facing restraint
- Children aged from six months old but under four years old must be secured in either a rear or forward facing approved child restraint with an inbuilt harness
- Children under four years old cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows
- Children aged from four years old but under seven years old must be secured in a forward facing approved child restraint with an inbuilt harness or an approved booster seat
- Children aged from four years old but under seven years old cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in an approved child restraint or booster seat
- Children aged from seven years old but under 16 years old who are too small to be restrained by a seatbelt properly adjusted and fastened are strongly recommended to use an approved booster seat
- Children in booster seats must be restrained by a suitable lap and sash type approved seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened, or by a suitable approved child safety harness that is properly adjusted and fastened.

If your child is too small for the child restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in their current child restraint until it is safe for them to move to the next level.

If your child is too large for the child restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of child restraint.



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## **What type of restraint should I use for my child?**

You should use a restraint that is appropriate for your child's age and size.

It must be an approved child restraint that complies with Australian Standards (AS/NZS1754) and is marked as complying with the Australian Standard.

Advice on how to select an appropriate child restraint can be found in the RTA's brochure Safer Child Restraints: your guide to buying a child restraint.

## **What is a rearward facing restraint (also known as a baby capsule)?**

It is a restraint that must be used for children (babies) from birth to around six months of age, which is held in place by a seatbelt and the top tether strap with the baby facing the rear of the vehicle. All have an inbuilt harness system.

Rearward facing restraints may be used for children aged more than six months of age if the child is too small to progress to the next level of restraint.

## **What is a forward facing restraint?**

The restraint is held in place by a seatbelt and a top tether strap. The seat faces forward and incorporates a six-point harness.

Forward facing restraints can be used for children aged more than six months of age.

## **What is a booster seat?**

Booster seats have high backs and sides to provide protection for children in side impact crashes as well as providing support for when they are sleeping. They are suitable for children from around four years of age up to age seven years of age.

Booster seats are used with an adult lap/sash seatbelt. The seatbelt must be correctly adjusted to protect the child in the instance of a crash.

## **What is a convertible forward facing restraint?**

It combines the features of rearward and forward facing restraints in one child restraint.

These restraints can be used by babies from birth to around six months of age in the rearward facing mode. If the child is not large enough to progress to the next level of restraint, the restraint may remain

# *Child Restraint Hiring Program*

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in the rearward facing mode until the child is ready. These restraints can then be converted to forward facing for children six months to around four years of age.

All have an inbuilt six-point harness system and a top tether strap.

## **What is a convertible booster seat?**

This combines the features of a forward facing restraint for children from age six months to four years of age and booster seats for children aged four to under seven years of age.

These restraints come with an inbuilt harness and a top tether strap. The inbuilt harness is used until the child reaches four years of age or until the harness straps are too tight over the shoulders. The inbuilt harness must be removed when the restraint is used as a booster seat. When being used as a booster seat the child must be restrained by an adult seatbelt.

## **What is a seatbelt?**

A seatbelt is a belt device fitted to the vehicle to restrain the occupant in the event of a crash. Modern vehicles have lap/sash seatbelts while some older vehicles may only have lap type belts for rear seat positions.

Seatbelts must fit correctly. The lap belt must be positioned over the upper thigh and the sash belt (where available) crosses the mid shoulder where it does not touch the neck.

## **Can I use a second hand restraint?**

Manufacturers recommend a restraint should not be used if it is more than 10 years old, or if the restraint is showing signs of cracking or frayed straps.

Do not buy or use a restraint that has been involved in a crash or if you do not know the history of the restraint.

The date of manufacture is printed on all restraints, if it looks worn, buckles are broken, the plastic shell is cracked or discoloured for example from age, overloading or exposure to the sun it is advised that the restraint should not be used.

## **Can I use a child restraint that was purchased overseas?**

No. Child restraints purchased overseas do not comply with Australian Standards and they are not compatible with Australia vehicles.

# *Child Restraint Hiring Program*

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Australian vehicles have a unique top tether strap anchorage system, which only Australian Standard approved child restraints are compatible with.

In addition, the Australian Standard for child restraints is one of the most stringent child restraint standards in the world. Unlike the European Standard, the Australian standard requires all restraints to be tested in side and rear impact tests and some with inverted test for roll-over protection.

## **Can my child sit in the front seat?**

This depends on whether there is more than one row of seats in the car and the age of the child.

Where there are two or more rows of seats:

- A child under four years of age cannot sit in the front row of a car if there is more than one row of seats, even if they are large enough to fit in a booster seat.
- A child between four years of age and under seven years of age cannot sit in the front row of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats unless the other rows are occupied by younger children in an approved child restraint.

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Note: you can only fit a booster seat in the front row of a vehicle if that booster seat does not require a top tether strap.

If the car has one row of seats (for example a single cab ute or sports car with a front anchorage point) a child of any age can sit in the front seat provided they are properly restrained. However, most car manufacturers recommend against the use of rearward facing restraints in front passenger seats.

A child in a rearward facing restraint should not be placed in the front a vehicle where there is an air bag.

## **If I have four children under seven years of age can I carry them in my car?**

This will depend on the age of your children and the size of your car as well as the type of your child restraint and booster seats you have.

If you have a standard sedan with two rows of seats you should be able to accommodate three child restraints in the second row and carry one child aged over four years of age in the front row.

## **What if my child is too small or too large for the type of restraint specified for my child's age?**

If a child is too small for a restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in a previous level of restraint for as long as necessary.

# *Child Restraint Hiring Program*

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If a child is too large for a restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of restraint.

A child aged between six months and four years of age will need to move to the next level of restraint when:

- Their shoulders no longer fit comfortably within the restraint; or
- Their eye-level is higher than the back of the restraint; or
- The top insertion slots for the shoulder straps are below the level of the child's shoulders.

A child aged between four and seven years of age will need to move to the next level of restraint if:

- Their shoulders no longer fit comfortably within the restraint; or
- Their eye-level is higher than the back of the booster seat (when measured perpendicularly from the seat back).

Children should remain in a child restraint for as long as physically possible.

## **What is the difference between an inbuilt harness and an accessory child safety harness?**

An inbuilt harness is made at the time of manufacture as part of the child restraint. It is suitable for children weighing up to 18 kg. There are no inbuilt harnesses available for children over 18 kg.

A child safety harness is purchased separately. It is suitable for children that weigh between 18 kg and 32 kg. These harnesses must be used according to the instruction, to prevent unnecessary injury to children.

## **Can I use an accessory child safety harness instead of a lap and sash seatbelt with my booster seat?**

A child safety harness should not be used if a lap and sash seatbelt is available. Research suggests a lap and sash seatbelt it is just as safe, or safer, than using a child safety harness, when correctly fitted. The use of an accessory child safety harness is recommended only in a position where the vehicle seat has a lap-only seatbelt. Research has shown that the likelihood of a child safety harness being used incorrectly is very high and the risk of injuries when incorrectly used is much higher compared to a lap-sash seatbelt.

## **I have a centre lap-only seatbelt in the back seat of my car, can I use a booster seat there?**

It is recommended that you retrofit a lap-sash seat belt in that position.



# *Child Restraint Hiring Program*

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If you do choose to use an approved booster seat with an accessory child safety harness please ensure the lap portion of the belt is placed firmly first over the upper thigh before adjusting the shoulder harness.

## **Can I use a booster cushion instead of a booster seat?**

You may use a booster cushion if it complies with Australian Standards.

It is recommended that booster seats with high back and side wings be used wherever possible as they provide a higher level of safety in some types of crashes.

## **Can I hire a baby capsule, child restraint or booster seat?**

Yes. Child restraints can be hired from some maternity hospitals, councils and private companies.

## **Who is responsible for ensuring a child is restrained in an approved restraint?**

Motor vehicle drivers are responsible for ensuring all children aged under seven years of age are restrained in appropriate, standards approved restraints.

Penalties apply for failing to ensure all children are appropriate restrained are: \$325 and three demerit points (six demerit points during double demerit point periods) for each unrestrained or incorrectly restrained child.

## **Where can I get help fitting my restraint?**

Authorised Restraint Fitting Station information can be found on the Centre for Road Safety Website <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/index.cgi?action=authrestraintfitting.form>

## **What websites can I access to get further information?**

[www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au](http://www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au)

[www.kidsafensw.org](http://www.kidsafensw.org)

[www.childcarseats.com.au](http://www.childcarseats.com.au)

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Information from the NSW Centre for Road Safety Website  
<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/staying-safe/children/childcarseats/index.html>



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## Hire Charges

1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Restraint	Picture	Deposit	Weekly	Monthly	3 Months	6 Months	Extra Mth
Baby Capsule (Birth to 6 month)		\$55 Per restraint	\$25 Per restraint	\$42 Per restraint	\$54 Per restraint	\$72 Per restraint	\$10 Per restraint
Convertible Child Restraint (Birth to 4 years) or Forward Facing Child Seat (6 months to 4 years)		\$55 Per restraint	\$25 Per restraint	\$42 Per restraint	\$54 Per restraint	\$72 Per restraint	\$10 Per restraint
Convertible Booster Seat (6 months to 7 years) or Booster Seat (4 years to 7 years)		\$55 Per restraint	\$25 Per restraint	\$42 Per restraint	\$54 Per restraint	\$72 Per restraint	\$10 Per restraint

- 👉 The deposit is refunded at the completion of the hire contract if the child restraint is returned in good working order, clean and by the contract expiry date. Normal wear and tear will be taken into consideration. It takes 14 days for the deposit to be refunded by EFT.
- 👉 A **late fee of \$25.00 per week per restraint** will be charged if child restraint is not returned by the contract expiry date or the contract is not renewed by the expiry date. Any outstanding charges must be paid the day it is returned.
- 👉 Child restraints shown here are only examples. Actual child restraint may vary in style, brand and colour to the ones pictured.
- 👉 Please contact Council at least two weeks before you require the child restraint to make booking on (02) 6757 3222.
- 👉 Fees and charges are subject to change.

# Child Restraint Hiring Program

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## PAYMENT FORM

Version Nine (July 2017)

### Payment in Person

Payment for the hire of the child restraint can be made in person at Moree Plains Shire Council Administration Office located at Level 2, 30 Heber Street, Moree. Cash, Credit Card or Cheque will be accepted at this location.

Please make cheques payable to Moree Plains Shire Council. You will require two (2) separate cheques for the deposit and the hire charge.

If you are unable to pay for the child restraint in person at the Moree Plains Shire Council Administration Office you will need to pay either by credit card or cheque.

### Payment by Post - Cheque

If you wish to pay by cheque please make the cheque payable to Moree Plains Shire Council. You will need two (2) separate cheques. The first will be for the deposit of \$55.00 and the second cheque is for the hire charge of the child restraint for the length of the hire period. For example if you hire a child restraint for 3 months your second cheque will be to the value of \$54.00

Please post the two cheques with the completed Booking Form to Moree Plains Shire Council, PO Box 420, MOREE, NSW, 2400

### Payment by Post - Credit Card

If you wish to pay by credit card please complete the form below and return with the completed Booking Form as soon as possible to Moree Plains Shire Council, PO Box 420, MOREE, NSW, 2400. Please note that two (2) transactions will be processed; one for the deposit and the second for the hire charge.

***Please note that AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD IS NOT ACCEPTED***

Credit Card No:	
Credit Card Expiry Date:	
Name on the Credit Card:	
A. Deposit Amount:	\$
B. Child Restraint Hire Charge:	\$
C. Total Amount being paid: (A+B = C)	\$
Type of Card/Bank: eg. Visa	
Credit Card Holder's Contact Number:	
Card Holders Signature:	
Date:	

Cash payments are not accepted by post. If you have any questions about payment methods please phone Renee McMillan on (02) 6757 3277.

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## Pre Hire Survey

Version Two

Please take a moment to complete this survey. The information you provide will be used to improve the program and ensure we are meeting the needs of our local community.

1. How did you hear about this Child Restraint Hiring Program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper
	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Local Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents as Teachers
	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Local Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
2. Where did you get your Child Restraint Hiring Program Information Pack from?	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Local Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents as Teachers
	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Local Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Zonta Parenting Room
	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
3. Did the information pack explain everything you needed to know?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If no, what other information would you have liked in the pack?	_____	
	_____	
4. What is your age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 20 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 to 25 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 30 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 to 35 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 36 to 40 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> 41 to 50 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 51 years plus
5. What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
6. Do you have any additional comments?	_____	
	_____	

Thank you for completing this survey.