The workshop used information collected by CASR through its in-depth at-scene crash investigation to examine the key issues contributing to a sample of crashes occurring. A group of road safety stakeholders came together to identify countermeasures suitable for intersections of the same type and assigned follow-up actions to key personnel present at the workshop.

The workshop was chaired by the Director of Road Safety at DTEI, Martin Small. The road safety stakeholders who attended the inaugural CASR Case Study Workshop included various representatives of DTEI, SA Police, Major Crash Investigation, Barossa Council and the Country Fire Service.

The idea for the workshop came from the system of crash review used by the Swedish Road Administration, known as OLA. In Swedish, OLA stands for “Objective facts”, “solutions” and “intentions”. During an OLA meeting a group of key road safety stakeholders discuss a crash in length to determine the key contributing factors (“objective facts”). Next, potential solutions to prevent similar crashes are suggested and debated (“solutions”). Finally, stakeholders choose the most feasible solutions and develop plans for implementing them (“intentions”).

The aim is to involve all relevant experts in tackling road safety issues without any need for criticism or blame, and to develop and initiate new countermeasures.

In setting up this first OLA-style Case Study Workshop, CASR was interested in exploring a common crash type. One crash type that CASR commonly attends is an intersection crash in the non-urban areas north of Adelaide. Looking in its database, CASR staff found an intersection in the Barossa where they had attended three crashes, all with a virtually identical crash configuration. These crashes proved an ideal set to study in the inaugural workshop. The great benefit of the workshop was that a key number of suitable countermeasures were identified by those in a position to implement them.

For more information please contact
Matthew Baldock
matthew@casr.adelaide.edu.au

Current projects

Effect of speed limits on travel times in rural areas
Clear zones and barriers
Relationship between vehicle performance and young driver crash involvement
Easing pedestrian standards

2010 CASR seminar series

Following on from the successful 2009 series, the CASR seminar series will continue in 2010. The seminars address major topics in the fight to reduce road trauma and highlight the latest research in the area.

3 February Making a difference – what’s happening in road safety research? Professor Mary Lydon

The seminars are held in The Art Gallery Auditorium on Wednesdays from 4.00 to 5.30pm.

For more information please contact Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or email leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

Showing restraint in South Australia

A recent observational survey of seat belt use in South Australia revealed that although the level of seat belt use is relatively high, there is still room for improvement.

Despite the well-known safety benefits of seat belts, there is still a significant level of non-use in Australia and throughout the world. CASR conducted an on-road observational survey of seat belt/restraint use in South Australia, the first survey in Australia since 2005.

The study found that restraint use for passenger vehicles in the Adelaide metropolitan area was 98.4% and ranged from 96.8% to 98.2% in the five rural regions surveyed.

Principal researcher Lisa Wundersitz said: “The level of restraint use observed in this study was the highest since surveys began in South Australia in 1998. While the rates in the metropolitan area are higher, the rural regions are catching up. However, there are areas where there is scope for improvement. Rear seat passengers and adult males had the lowest levels of seatbelt use. Future restraint use campaigns should consider targeting these groups.”

Child restraint use was found to be relatively high but varied by region. “Given that restraint use was generally higher in the metropolitan area than rural regions, we were very surprised that child restraint use was lowest in metropolitan Adelaide (96.6%)”, Lisa commented.

Another unexpected finding was that 20% of children aged 0 to 4 years were inappropriately restrained, either in booster seats or adult seat belts. “This finding is of concern as new national child restraint laws to be introduced in 2010 will require children up to the age of 7 years to be appropriately restrained based on their age. Children up to the age of 6 months will be required to be restrained in a rearward facing child restraint (e.g. baby capsule) and from 6 months until their 4th birthday, children must be restrained in either a rearward or forward facing child seat safety. From 4 to 7 years, children must be restrained in either a forward facing child restraint or booster seat. These findings highlight the need to educate parents about which restraints are most appropriate for their children.”

For more information please contact Lisa Wundersitz, lisa@casr.adelaide.edu.au

CASR plays key role in discussing solutions for rural intersections

In October, CASR and the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), convened the inaugural CASR Case Study Workshop.

The seminar series present new forum

In May 2010 CASR will be hosting the inaugural Australia and New Zealand Road Safety Research in Progress Forum, giving researchers the opportunity to present and discuss current research initiatives. While the Australian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference provides an excellent opportunity to disseminate completed research outcomes, it does not provide the opportunity to discuss ongoing research projects and explore issues of research quality and data reliability.

CASR envisages this forum will provide an excellent networking and peer review opportunity for both established and early career researchers.

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au

For more information please contact
Leonie Witter on (08) 8303 4114 or at leonie@casr.adelaide.edu.au
Message from CASR

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2009. This has been an exciting year at CASR particularly in forming new collaborations and relationships. Working with others and sharing knowledge is vital in the multi-disciplinary and complex world of road safety research and I believe we are making progress in forming links between the research groups.

Last month the RSIRPE Conference in Sydney brought together over 500 road safety professionals including eight of us from CASR. We were all impressed with the quality of the papers and organisation and would like to congratulate the NSW organising committee on producing such a successful conference. Of course we were also very pleased that CASR staff received the awards for best paper and best paper by a new researcher and we thank the conference organisers and the judging committee.

Mary Lydon, Director, mary@casr.adelaide.edu.au

We hope you have found our newsletters interesting and, as always, we would be pleased to receive your feedback and suggestions. Finally we wish all our colleagues and customers a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you all again next year.

CASR researchers acknowledged by their peers

CASR is pleased to announce the establishment of the Motorcycling Australia Postgraduate Scholarship. This scholarship is being generously funded by Motorcycling Australia and is for candidates interested in completing a PhD on the topic of motorcycling safety. Those with a background in psychology, public health or statistics and who are eligible to enrol for a PhD are welcome to apply. The scholarship will be for 3 years and has a tax-exempt stipend of $26,669 per annum. Application forms are available from the web page:

For more information please contact Matthew Baldock, matthew@casr.adelaide.edu.au

New postgraduate students

RAA scholarship to study older driver safety and mobility

James Thompson is commencing his PhD after receiving the Road Safety Research Scholarship generously provided by the Royal Automobile Association of South Australia. His research will be in the area of older driver safety and mobility. James intends to examine the importance of adequate protection and safety for the well-being of older drivers. Matthew Baldock, Associate Professor Mathias and Lisa Wunderlich will supervise James in his PhD.

Benefits of reducing speeds on rural roads

Blair Turner has commenced his PhD at CASR on the topic of reducing road casualties on rural roads through reduced speeds. Blair has extensive research experience from New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia and is known to many in his current role at ARRB. He will be conducting his research part time and will be supervised by Jeremy Woolley and Mary Lydon of CASR and Dr Peter Cairney of ARRB.

In the spotlight – In the spotlight – Robert Anderson
Robert Anderson
Robert Anderson has been at CASR since 1993.

Motorcyclist safety in Victoria

The Community Policing and Education Project has been launched by VicRoads and Victoria Police in 2009 to reduce the likelihood of motorcyclist crashes in Victoria through a combination of enforcement and education countermeasures.

CASR has been chosen to evaluate the effectiveness of the Project using a range of methods. These methods include a process evaluation, analysis of crash and offence data, an internet survey of motorcyclists, an on-road speed survey and roadside traffic observation. The ultimate outcome of the evaluation will be a determination of the success of the Project and recommendations for future enforcement and education strategies to reduce motorcyclist crashes.

The Project is designed to increase the awareness of the behaviours that commonly lead to motorcycle crashes and motorcyclist injuries. These behaviours involve excessive riding speed, lack of appropriate protective clothing and hand-held mobile phone use by car drivers. A particularly interesting component of the Project is the use of police to speak to riders about their clothing and how it might put them at greater risk of crash involvement (inconspicuous) or at greater risk of injury in a crash (inadequate protection). Additionally, police talk to riders about other risks, riding skills and road craft.

CASR’s evaluation will involve analysis of two years of crash and offence data prior to and following the commencement of the two-year Project. All registered motorcycle owners in Victoria will be contacted to complete a survey on a variety of motorcycling issues, including enforcement and road infrastructure. Roadside observations will focus on motorcyclist protective clothing and car driver hand-held mobile phone use. Observations will be undertaken in both regional areas of Victoria, focusing on weekend riders, and Metropolitan Melbourne, focusing on weekday commuters. On-road speed surveys will also be conducted in regional areas.

Inagural ARRB/CASR seminar

Jeremy Woolley presented the inaugural ARRB / CASR joint seminar in Perth on 4 November on the topic of collisions with roadside hazards.

The seminar represents the first in a series in collaboration with the ARRB Perth office and was timed to provide a prelude to the Australian College of Road Safety (ACRS) Annual Conference held on the following two days. Some 30 guests from Western Australia, Interstate and overseas attended, representing various State Road Authorities, Local Government Authorities, the Police and various road safety committees and organisations. The opportunity was used to promote the joint capabilities of ARRB and CASR and future seminars will be scheduled for both Adelaide and Perth on various road safety topics. Jeremy is currently the State president of the ACRS in South Australia and represents the State on the National Executive.