



## KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ON **Driveways**

### **Why is driveway safety important?**

**New Zealand has one of the highest rates of child driveway death and injury in the world.**

Every two weeks in New Zealand a child is hospitalised after being injured by a car in a private driveway. Another five children are killed every year from being run over in driveways.

Most children injured in driveway accidents are toddlers, aged about two, and their injuries are often severe.

### **What is Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities doing about driveway safety?**

Kāinga Ora has developed a driveway safety programme to reduce the risk of children being run over in the driveways of state homes.

As a start, we have checked nearly 13,000 of our properties where there are children under five to see if they have play areas separated from driveways.

Our qualified contractors are now making driveways safer by building fencing and self-closing gates at stand-alone properties and putting up speed restriction signs, speed humps and convex mirrors at our complexes where needed.

We are also making sure that when we build or renovate a house, play areas are visible from main living areas and have direct access to the house.

Our priority is to carry out work at properties with young children where there are no fences, fences that are in poor condition, or properties where vehicles can enter children's play areas. After that we will start making driveways safer at all our properties around New Zealand.

### **You can keep your children safe from driveway injuries by:**

- **checking where children are before you drive off**
- **always keeping a close eye on children around vehicles**
- **NEVER letting children play in the driveway.**



KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

# Driveways

## What makes driveways so unsafe?

Safekids Aotearoa says there are three main reasons why children are run over in driveways:

- Human behaviour – most adults in New Zealand are unaware of the risks.
- Car design – particularly lack of visibility from within cars, when entering and leaving driveways.
- Property design – particularly where driveways are not separated from play areas, and also extra long or shared driveways, driveways with multiple parking spaces, and driveways that exit into quiet streets where children might play.

If you have any concerns about your driveway not being safe, or questions about the work we're doing at your property to make your driveway safer, please contact us on 0800 801 601. It's free, even if you're calling from a mobile phone.

## A few facts:

- 49 children were struck or run over by a vehicle in a private driveway between 2006 and 2010 - mostly from the Auckland region. That's about 12 children admitted to Starship Hospital each year.
- Most of these children were under five.
- 41 children died from their injuries after being run over on a private driveway between 2000 and 2010 in New Zealand. That's about four child deaths a year. (source: Safekids Aotearoa (2011) Factsheet: Child driveway run over injuries. Auckland.)



We are installing secure fences like the one above to separate play areas from driveways.



This long driveway has been made safer with speed bumps and a separate pathway for pedestrians.



Speed signs and speed bumps like this may also be installed at some complexes.

## What is Safekids Aotearoa and why is Kāinga Ora working with them?

Kāinga Ora has teamed up with Safekids Aotearoa to help protect children from harm.

Safekids Aotearoa is the national child injury prevention service, and part of Starship Children's Health. Its goal is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to children in New Zealand aged 0-14 years.

Safekids Aotearoa is educating people about driveway safety. We are working with them to promote driveway safety and awareness

**For more information, visit:**

**[www.mysafekids.org.nz/drivewayrunover](http://www.mysafekids.org.nz/drivewayrunover)**