

---

## Helmet saves young boy

---

ANNE MATHER

March 07, 2009 12:00am

**A YOUNG boy who collided with a car while riding his bicycle was saved from serious injury by his bike helmet.**

The seven-year-old boy from Tasmania's North-West, hit the front of the car and was thrown over the bonnet and on to the road.

The boy's helmet was damaged, but the boy himself sustained only minor injuries.

Police and road safety authorities said the crash could easily have had a tragic ending if the boy had not worn a helmet.

Road Safety Taskforce chairman Paul Hogan said cyclists of all ages needed to wear a helmet.

"The fact is that wearing a helmet could well save your life," Mr Hogan said.

"Good fortune shone upon this particular occasion and we didn't end up with a fatality," he said.

The boy was cycling along Goldie St, Wynyard, about 3.10pm on Thursday.

Police said a Mitsubishi Magna was travelling east, near the yacht club, when they collided.

Ambulance officers treated the boy at the scene.

Mr Hogan said drivers needed to be wary of cyclists, especially children riding before and after school.

"Drivers need to be vigilant and cyclists also need to be wary," he said.

Tasmanian State School Parents and Friends president Jenny Branch said an increasing number of children were riding bikes to school.

Ms Branch said children aged from about seven upwards were using their bikes for school transport.

She urged motorists to be careful of young cyclists around busy school start and finish times.

Ms Branch said the increasing use of bikes was a positive trend, because children should not be over protected.

She said "wrapping children in cotton wool" did not allow children to develop resilience.

But she said parents needed to ensure children on bikes had a well-fitted helmet and were aware of road rules.

And motorists, especially those in 4WDs, needed to watch out for young riders.

Ms Branch also reminded parents that helmets involved in any sort of accident needed to be replaced.

Police are seeking witnesses to the accident. Anyone with information should call Wynyard Police on 6434 5311 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

---

[Print this page](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

© 2008 Davies Brothers Pty Ltd. All Times AEDT (GMT +11).