

# Media Release

## Australian Child restraint Resource Initiative

Tuesday, 14 November 2018

**Re: Victorian State Government 2018 election policy: FUNDING CHILD CAR SEATS INSTALLATION**

The ACRI welcomes the Victorian State government announcement to fund child safety initiatives. The Governments recognition of the challenges surrounding this child safety issue by committing a \$4 million dollar subsidisation for parents is a step in the right direction.

However, the Government media release states that, if re-elected they will fund community organisations to arrange *“for professional installers to **do it for families for free**”*.

The professional expertise of ACRI members have enhanced such events for years and no doubt will feature prominently in future initiatives, but ACRI is greatly concerned of the mixed messages to community that such an initiative will bring.

The ‘installation’ service is grossly underestimated in its complexity and undervalued across our communities, these two factors being consistently reflected to all ACRI members via discussions on child transit equipment budgets for child care as well as for personal family use.

It is true that we do not have to spend a lot of money to ensure our children travel safely, but if any parent is unsure of what constitutes correct use of their safety equipment, then it is as necessary to invest in this aspect as it is to invest in a child’s education.

The Safety Seat ‘installation’ process is one of consultancy and education, not a ‘do for’ service. It should not be treated as lightly or generically as a ‘free service’ often suggests. Each service is unique, therefore individually considered. They can be invaluable, far beyond the \$40 mentioned by the Government. Properly carried out an ‘installation’ service will empower a parent with their everyday transit challenges well into the future.

Service providers in this field generally do so with considerable commitment and dedication to training, under conditions and responsibilities that many would never consider working with.

ACRI supports the intention of helping families that need assistance with this topic, but believe it should be through appropriate individual education, not aimed solely at the installation aspect.

*“Having a service provider ‘do it’ will not necessarily help a parent or the child tomorrow.”*

*Final comment attributed and Approved for release by Robert Newman CEO - ACRI*