

## HILLSIDE

### SAFETY

## A metre really matters

Motorists have been urged to pay more attention to cyclists after 48 bike riders were killed in Australia last year, the highest number since 1997.



Federal MP Andrew Nikolic (Bass, Tas) has thrown his support behind the 'A Metre Matters' campaign, which asks drivers to keep a minimum one metre distance when overtaking cyclists in areas where the speed limit is under 60 kilometres an hour and 1.5 metres when speed limits are above 60.

"There is a simple logic to this issue. The motorist in a car, travelling up to 120 kilometres an hour and protected by the vehicle's structure and airbags, owes a duty of care to the cyclist protected by nothing more than a helmet," Mr Nikolic told the House of Representatives.

One of last year's victims was 21-year-old Lewis Hendy, who died on 29 December.

"He was struck from behind without warning on a straight stretch of road on a bright Sunday morning very close to my home in Riverside," Mr Nikolic said.

"No law will bring Lewis back, but shared respect between motorists and cyclists, increased awareness and a cooperative approach to road safety might just save other lives."

Mr Nikolic encouraged all Australians to download the 'A Metre Matters' petition from [www.tas.cycling.org.au](http://www.tas.cycling.org.au) or from [www.amygillett.org.au](http://www.amygillett.org.au). ■

### MONEY

## Tactile banknotes would be visionary

For most Australians, it's no big deal to reach into your pocket and see what money you've got available. But for Connor McLeod, it's not that simple.

"Connor is frequently forced to pay for things using only coins because these are easier to distinguish," Jenny Macklin told the House of Representatives.

The Member for Jagajaga (Vic) wants the Reserve Bank of Australia to introduce new tactile banknotes that would make a difference to the 300,000 Australians with a visual impairment.

Connor recently showed her a Canadian banknote which details the denomination of the bill in the right hand corner using a series of raised dots.

"Many other countries have adopted tactile banknotes. It is possible," Ms Macklin said.

She urged the federal government to instruct the Reserve Bank to introduce tactile notes as soon as possible.

"Visually impaired Australians deserve to be as independent as they possibly can be," she said. ■



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