

a metre matters – Victoria Community Attitudes Research

November 2016

Key findings

a metre matters

- 9 out of 10 Victorians (88%) support the recommendation of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry to introduce **a metre matters** laws in Victoria
- 3 out of 5 driver-cyclists (58%) reported drivers don't currently leave enough space when passing cyclists (sometimes, rarely, never)
- Over half said that 1m, 1.5 or 2 metres (54% combined) were safe distances for a vehicle to overtake a cyclist
- Safety is the main reason people gave for supporting **a metre matters**
- Only 1 in 4 Victorians (25%) were aware of the existing guideline recommending drivers leave a metre when passing cyclists (the existing guideline in Victoria)
- Less than half of Victorians (40%) were aware of the recommendation of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry to adopt **a metre matters**
- Most Victorians (56%) cycle for recreation with 1 in 4 cycling for leisure sport or training (26%) and more than 1 in 10 are cycling commuters (13%)
- 1 in 3 people who don't cycle regularly (29%) said concerns about safety was the number one barrier for them to cycle more.
- Equally, 1 in 3 regular cyclists (28%) reported that increased space would encourage more frequent cycling
- Only 3% of people who don't regularly cycle reported that mandatory helmet use was a barrier
- The vast majority of all Victorians (71%) agreed that cyclists have a right to cycle on the road and an overwhelming majority (86%) had a positive or neutral attitude towards cyclists
- 2 in 3 Victorians (60%) agreed Government should invest more in on-road infrastructure for cyclists with the main reasons being cyclists need more space and need to improve safety on the roads



About the study

The Amy Gillett Foundation commissioned Galaxy Research to conduct research into community attitudes and awareness of cyclists, cyclist safety and attitudes towards proposed minimum passing distance legislation. The study was undertaken following the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015. In the final report, tabled in September 2016, the Parliamentary Committee recommended to the Victorian Government that the road rules be amended to specify that drivers be required to provide a minimum distance of:

- 1 metre when overtaking a bike rider in speed zones at or below 60km/h
- 1.5 metres in speed zones above 60km/h

The study, an online survey, was conducted in October 2016 with 500 randomly selected Victorian residents aged 18 years and older, living in both Melbourne and regional Victoria. The sample included minimum quotas and data weighting on sex, age and bicycle riding to ensure accurate representation.

Respondents included people classified as:

- *Drivers* - drive most days and cycle less than one a month (n=277)
- *Driver-cyclists* - drive and ride at least once a month (n=212)

Margin of error on sample size of 501 is $\pm 4.4\%$.