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Early Learning Association Australia AGM focuses on safe transportation of children in cars

ELAA's 2017 Annual General Meeting will hear from leading paediatric trauma surgeon, Associate Professor Warwick Teague of the Royal Children's Hospital, about the "critical number" that can guide parents and carers to ensuring children travel safely in cars.

"Professor Teague is a passionate advocate for the safe transportation of children and has worked with ELAA, VicRoads and the Transport Accident Commission to develop a new video resource *Child restraints and booster seats – What you need to know*," said Mr Shane Lucas, CEO of ELAA.

"The video will help inform the community about the importance of using child restraints that are appropriate to the height – not just the age – of every child.

"This fantastic new resource emphasises that all children less than 145cm in height should be assessed using a simple 5-step test for an appropriate child restraint when travelling in a car.

"Professor Teague tells us that 145 is the "critical number"... but he also says the most critical number is Zero, which is how many deaths from road-related trauma should be acceptable to our community," Mr Lucas said.

The ELAA AGM will also be addressed by Victorian Minister for Families and Children, and Early Childhood Education, Jenny Mikakos.

"We are delighted that Ms Mikakos was recently appointed Minister for Early Childhood Education, affirming the Government's commitment to our sector; to children; and to the vital role early learning plays in our society and economy," Mr Lucas said.

The ELAA AGM will also see the announcement of the winner of the annual McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Award: the 2017 winner is Genevieve Hammerton from Rangeview Preschool Association in Mitcham.

"Genevieve's many accomplishments over seven years on the Association's Committee – including four years as President – are an inspiration and a great example of the dedication of volunteers across our sector," Mr Lucas said.

"Genevieve has injected a culture of participation, contribution and celebration into the Rangeview Preschool community.

"Parents like Genevieve are the first and most important educators of children, and their leadership is vital to sustaining the not-for-profit early learning sector," Mr Lucas said.

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