



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.

ABN 91 028 693 268

5 October 2021

Letter to the Editor

Dr Monika Moy
Chair, AMA(SA) Road Safety Committee

The Road Safety Committee of the Australian Medical Association in South Australia (AMA(SA)) notes with concern the article on page 15 of *The Advertiser* (Friday, 1 October 2021) regarding the speed limit on Torrens Valley Road at Birdwood.

Our committee, which includes clinicians and road safety experts, believes that this location is one of many in the Adelaide Hills where speed limits are far too high. The impacts of the speeds at which motorists drive through these areas is obvious. *The Advertiser* article referred to '131 vehicle crashes between 2015 and 2019 on the stretch of road'. An article published in *The Courier* in March 2021 noted that of the 15 serious accidents along the 9 km of Torrens Valley Road between Birdwood and Mount Pleasant in the same period, 80 per cent occurred along that 3 km stretch of road. At least one fatality occurred in that period.

These are statistics that speak for the need for change, as do the statements of locals who say they are sick of cleaning up after high-speed crashes and that they fear for their own.

It is extremely worrying if the Department for Infrastructure and Transport has not sufficiently investigated or has blocked a reduction in the speed limit that will improve safety, is supported by locals, and is recommended by the RAA – ostensibly because the area is “not built up”. This is a stretch of road that is clearly used by commuters to and from other “built up” locations in the region.

We ask that the Minister consider a change to the speed limit at Birdwood and other high-risk Adelaide Hills locations as a matter of urgency.