

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

Minister for Medical Research



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STRONGER SAFETY RULES FOR VICTORIAN CARNIVALS

Every Victorian family deserves to enjoy a day out knowing their loved ones are safe.

That's why Labor is strengthening safety requirements for amusement rides in Victoria.

The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Amusement Structure) Regulations 2026 come into effect on 29 July 2026.

The reforms follow a coronial inquest into the tragic April 2017 death of six-year-old Eugene Mahauariki, who slipped under a safety bar and was ejected from a ride at a carnival in Rye.

Under the new regulations:

- All amusement rides must comply with new registration, safety and maintenance standards
- WorkSafe will be able to shut down rides if operators give misleading information or rides become unsafe
- Ride owners must always keep operating manuals and maintenance logbooks onsite for inspection.

Extensive consultation with industry stakeholders has helped operators prepare for the new safety requirements.

For more information visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/new-requirements-amusement-rides.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Ben Carroll

"We're putting safety first with stronger rules, more enforcement and better protection for Victorian families."

"Our thoughts today are with Eugene's family, who have spent years fighting through their grief to make his tragic death a trigger for change."

Quotes attributable to Eugene Mahauariki's mother Tammy White

"No family should have to live what we have lived but we want Eugene's story to be a force for good. My cheeky little boy who never got the chance to grow up is going to forever protect children he never got to meet."

"Eugene, you are not and will never be forgotten. Every child who rides safely, every family that goes home whole, every carnival that meets its obligations, that is you. That is your gift to the world."

Quote attributable to WorkSafe Chief Executive Officer Cathy Henderson

"These new regulations give WorkSafe stronger tools to ensure amusement rides are properly designed, maintained and operated safely for all Victorians."

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