

Accidents involving buses and pedestrians on and near designated crossings

The incident

On 26 May 2021, OTSI received a report of a pedestrian who was injured after being struck by a bus while walking across the road adjacent to a pedestrian crossing in the Sydney CBD.

At the time of the incident, both the bus and the pedestrian were given green traffic signals to proceed. The bus was turning left into the road the pedestrian was crossing onto.

The driver reported that he did not see the pedestrian walking onto the road and was not aware the person had been struck by the bus. The pedestrian had been struck by the near side of the bus, adjacent to the centre door.

Operator follow up

The Chief Investigator requested CCTV footage from the bus operator and also reviewed CCTV footage from a camera situated on the street with a full view of the incident.

Key points for bus operators

Over the five years to June 2020, a total of 34 people were killed in accidents involving buses in NSW. Of the 34 fatalities, 15 were pedestrians. During the same period, 362 people were seriously injured in bus accidents, including 69 pedestrians.¹

The incident on 26 May 2021 was the ninth collision between a bus and a pedestrian reported to OTSI in 2021. Six of these incidents occurred when the pedestrian was walking on or near a pedestrian crossing.

Safety message

Bus operators should raise their drivers' awareness of the need to take extra care when turning at intersections and in areas where greater pedestrian traffic increases the risk of collisions with moving buses.

Drivers should also be mindful of blind spots that may obscure pedestrians and the limitations of the field of vision for rear vision mirrors in these situations.

¹ NSW Centre for Road Safety website - roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-bus-aware/index.html