

A strong voice for our future

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Be a road safety hero: look out while kids are about

School's back in Central Queensland this week, so motorists are reminded to slow down and put road safety front of mind.

Tens of thousands of students will be travelling to and from school from Tuesday.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said some of them would be taking the journey to school for the first time.

"Some of our youngest students will be excited and nervous to start their first year of school.

"The peripheral vision of a young child is a third narrower than an adult's, which means they have difficulty seeing vehicles and, being small, can also be harder for drivers to spot.

"Their eagerness can easily override their caution in traffic, so we all need to look out and take special care during the busy drop off times around schools."

Queensland drivers can become road safety heroes by following a simple ABC reminder:

A: Always slow down near schools.

B: Be alert and obey the instructions of school crossing supervisors.

C: Carefully read school zone signs when entering each zone.

Ms Lauga said lower speed zone limits would be enforced near schools from tomorrow to help counter this and keep our children safe.

"Make sure to slow down near schools during the specified school zone times, usually 7am to 9am and 2pm to 4pm, unless otherwise signed.

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“In all of that time the supervisor scheme has been operating, there has not been one fatality at a supervised crossing.

"More than 2000 school crossing supervisors are employed to keep children safe around Queensland schools.

“The Palaszczuk Labor Government has committed an additional \$4.2 million over two years to fund 50 new school crossing supervisor positions for the growing schools that need them,” said Ms Lauga.

Parents and carers should remind their children about the best ways to stay safe on and near the road.

Here're some tips for the talk:

- Cross the road at the safest possible point such as traffic lights, a pedestrian (zebra) crossing, refuge, or a position highly visible to drivers
- If they ride a bike, lookout for dangers like cars reversing out of driveways, plan the safest travel route and wear a helmet
- For students catching the bus or train, encourage them to leave with plenty of time to spare so they aren't tempted to rush near the road to catch their service.
- Talk about the dangers of wearing headphones and listening to music when crossing roads.

PHOTO: Brittany Lauga with principal Mrs Nielsen and teacher Joanne Aaron with Cawarral State School preppies.

ENDS

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