



Speech by

**CAROLYN MALE**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Hansard 11 December 2001

#### **BUS IT SAFE PROGRAM**

**Ms MALE** (Glass House—ALP)(10.24 a.m.): I would like to speak on a positive initiative in my area. In October I launched the Bus It Safe Program in Caboolture. A local bus company, Caboolture Bus Lines, has developed a 45-minute bus safety program which is aimed at reinforcing safe practices in and around buses, and approximately 800 students will participate in the program next year. Grant and Janette Craike, the owners of Caboolture Bus Lines, identified a need to provide additional road safety awareness to our young students, some of our most vulnerable road users. Grant and Janette then spent their own time and energy in developing an effective program. They worked in closely with Queensland Transport to ensure the Bus It Safe Program reflects bus safety guidelines.

The program includes an introductory session to broadly canvass road safety issues; a hands-on session where students are taken to a stationary bus and shown safety procedures, including understanding blind spots; and then an in-class lesson where students view a video as well as reinforce the safety procedures shown at the bus earlier. Queensland Transport provided almost \$4,700 for some groovy posters, stickers and bookmarks which reinforce the road safety message.

Last month I attended a session at the Tullawong State School with the year 4 students. I was impressed to see how easily the students could understand the material and how enjoyable the learning was. The program is designed to run three times in a student's school life in years 2, 4 and 6. By providing repeat sessions and the follow-up material for students to talk to their parents about, the road safety message has an excellent chance to become embedded in the students' minds. A safer school and bus environment will be the very positive result.

It should be noted that Caboolture Bus Lines are delivering the program at no cost to students or to the schools and there is potential for the Bus It Safe Program to be promoted to other bus companies throughout Queensland as a viable and practical community education initiative, and I would encourage them to do so. I congratulate Grant and Janette Craike in recognising and then acting on providing an important road safety community service and wish Caboolture Bus Lines every success. This truly shows how governments, school communities and local business can work together to address and accomplish specific community issues.

Time expired.

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