



Speech by

**DESLEY BOYLE**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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#### **DRIVESAFE**

**Ms BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (7.16 p.m.): This year, the Parliamentary Travelsafe Committee is focusing on novice driver and rider issues. I would like to draw the attention of the members of the House to a fine submission from an eminent person in Cairns, Mr Peter Roggenkamp, who runs the company Drivesafe. Mr Roggenkamp has a fine history indeed. As a younger man, he was involved in motor racing, but in terms of safety on the roads he is very highly regarded in Cairns.

His submission to the Travelsafe Committee is instructive. He says that education is not enough. He reports to us that in the 17- to 20-year age group there is gross overrepresentation in the reported crashes involving males and females between 12 and 80 years. He points out that there is a considerable economic cost, which is estimated at \$675,000 per fatality in metropolitan areas, and in regional areas, \$750,000 per fatality. But as Mr Roggenkamp says so eloquently—

The human cost is immeasurable. The people in this age group are our country's greatest asset and at that age they are budding young people beginning their adult life.

Mr Roggenkamp's recommendations centre on the following: driver and rider education, including such topics as attitude and driver/rider responsibilities to be part of the curriculum of senior year at high school; skills and knowledge to obtain a drivers/riders licence to be of a higher standard, for example, hazard recognition, wet road driving, night driving and emergency procedures, particularly emergency breaking; and defensive and emergency skills training within 12 months of obtaining a licence.

Mr Roggenkamp notes that the second highest contributing factor in both reported crashes and fatal crashes is inexperience and lack of expertise. Mr Roggenkamp states that the novice—in fact, all drivers and riders—should be taught to recognise hazards by using foresight and judgment along with the skills of crash avoidance, such as threshold breaking, smooth steering and so on.

Mr Roggenkamp's submission is instructive and, I hope, will be seriously considered, firstly, by the Travelsafe Committee and then by our government. There is a trial under way at the Gordonvale State High School in Cairns of increased driver education for our young people. The question is: will this make them feel too confident on the roads and thereby they will not contribute to avoiding accidents and fatalities, or will it in fact do as Mr Roggenkamp believes, and I also believe, and that is protect our young ones by minimising the risk of accident fatalities in this young age group?