



Speech by

Lillian van Litsenburg

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Hansard Thursday, 8 February 2007

SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Ms van LITSENBURG (Redcliffe—ALP) (10.26 am): At the end of last year, there was a tragic incident at Redcliffe State High School in which a young girl was killed by a speeding motorist in a stolen vehicle. She was crossing Oxley Avenue on a green light to get from one part of the school campus to the other between periods. I would like to express my sorrow and sympathy to her mother, father and sisters. Kaitlin was loved and respected in the community, and her family reacted with such courage and fortitude to this tragedy.

Despite the federal Liberal member's grandstanding over this issue, I have worked with the principal, Shona McKinlay, and the school community to listen to their needs. With the support of the Premier, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the minister for education, I was able to develop a plan that will reassure parents about the safety of their children. By the beginning of the school year, we have been able to reduce the four-lane road to a two-lane road so that this area could become a school zone. I was also able to initiate the consultations into the most effective infrastructure to join the two campuses.

I welcomed the Premier's announcement on 10 December that our government would fund an overpass or an underpass at not only Redcliffe State High School but every similar school in the state that has a split campus. Currently, drawings are being developed as a result of options the community have seen as viable options. We have developed a comprehensive consultation process with the school and the Redcliffe community.

This is the cornerstone of how the Beattie Labor government works with the community. We listen to their needs and work with them to achieve solutions that are effective and that work for the community. I am proud to be part of a government that values our children enough to work effectively with local communities to address the safety of our children.