



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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BABY CAPSULE HIRE SERVICE

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.50 am): Road safety is something we all need to consider at this time of year in the run-up to the festive season, and the correct restraint of babies and small children in cars is of course paramount. The Bligh government, as part of the healthy goal of Tomorrow's Queensland program, is committed to proactive measures to ensure that Queenslanders remain healthy and safe. That is why I welcomed the recent statements by the Minister for Emergency Services, Neil Roberts, concerning the Queensland Ambulance Service's baby capsule hire service. In view of reports of research which indicate that up to 70 per cent of child restraints are incorrectly installed, this is timely and reassuring information.

For a modest charge, parents across Queensland can have the peace of mind of a professionally installed baby capsule, ensuring the risk of serious injury to their child is greatly reduced. For less than \$70, Queensland Ambulance Service workers and other providers such as Kidsafe Queensland will professionally fit a potentially life-saving capsule. This covers the hire of the capsule for six months, the specialised fitting and all capsule accessories.

Last week I was with BCC Labor leader Councillor Shayne Sutton when she utilised the service to fit a capsule for her baby which was due in the next couple of weeks—at least she thought it was due in the next couple of weeks. However, today both Councillor Shayne Sutton and partner Stephen Beckett welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Sarah Monica, and I take this opportunity to congratulate them both. I am sure they are totally besotted. Shayne said that having the capsule fitted by the QAS was a huge comfort and she urges more parents to make use of the service. The QAS has been running the capsule hire service since 1993 as part of the community safety program, and Kidsafe has been around providing services since 1979. I urge all parents of very young children to avail themselves of this service. I congratulate the minister and the government for the continued support of this important service.