



Speech by


Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 11 May 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (10.15 am): This morning at Parliament House I was pleased to join Disability Services Minister Curtis Pitt, Acting Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, Professor Barry Watson from CARRS-Q and RACQ CEO Ian Gillespie to launch Queensland's participation in the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The Decade of Action for Road Safety is a global initiative which is being launched today in 90 countries around the world. The goal of this initiative is to reduce the forecast level of global road deaths in 2020. Road safety is a top priority for the Bligh government, and our road toll last year was the lowest since records started in 1952. This year there have already been 80 deaths on our roads, one more than for the same time last year. I think all members in this House would agree that that is still too many. By working together on a state-wide, national and international level we can ensure a collaborative approach to achieving a reduction in road injuries and fatalities world-wide.

Australia and Queensland are world leaders in road safety innovation and are a long way ahead of developing countries when it comes to road safety. Many innovations have contributed to a steady reduction in road fatalities here in Queensland, including the introduction of covert speed cameras in 2010; the overhaul of the graduated licensing system introduced in 2007 for young drivers to ensure increased experience on the road before obtaining a licence; and increased enforcement and detection methods, including immediate loss of licence for drink drivers if tested at .10, which will be introduced on 1 July this year.

We often speak about fatalities when it comes to road safety and forget about the tragedy associated with serious injuries. I can announce today that the Queensland government will increase its sponsorship of the Spinal Injuries Association's SEAT program by \$30,000 per year for the next three years. This will bring our total contribution to \$240,000. The Spinal Injuries Association does some fantastic work in rehabilitation care with victims of road trauma. We have been a proud supporter of the Spinal Injuries Association's SEAT program for a number of years. The Queensland government is increasing its sponsorship of this program to ensure the association is able to reach as many schools in our state as possible and deliver the road safety message. Road trauma continues to be the largest cause of spinal injuries, so it is important that this program gets the key messages out to students on the importance of road safety.