




Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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## **BACK-TO-SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.16 pm): I, too, take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy International Women's Day celebrating 100 years of struggles which date back to the workplace, and those struggles still continue today.

There are many things children need to learn when Queensland's prep and year 1 students start school, and one of the most important would have to be road safety around schools and in the community. In order to educate and prepare preppies and year 1 students in good road safety behaviours, the Queensland government has launched a Back-to-School road safety campaign. The state government campaign aims to ensure Queensland children remain safe throughout their school lives, know all the road safety behaviours and reduce their risk of being involved in road tragedies, and what can be more important than the safety of our children.

The 2011 back-to-school road safety campaign will see every Queensland prep and year 1 student receive a road safety kit, and it has been a pleasure visiting state and private schools in my electorate to personally deliver the key messages and safety kits. I have visited seven local Brisbane Central primary schools—Fortitude Valley, Windsor, Kelvin Grove, New Farm and Brisbane Central state schools and Holy Spirit New Farm and on Friday this week Holy Rosary Windsor. All of the preppies and year 1 children were enthusiastic, very attentive and eager to learn good road safety behaviours and to become road safety heroes. All principals have been most helpful in enabling me to visit and speak to all of the prep and year 1 students, and I thank them for their assistance.

I have visited students in classrooms and at assemblies and I have been most impressed by their good behaviour, listening skills and good manners when receiving the kits. I believe this is an excellent state government initiative to teach young children about the dangers on roads, especially around schools, as part of one of the largest education campaigns targeting school road safety across the state, with approximately 1,500 schools participating. The road safety kits are well designed and are an important education tool aimed to make school travel safer for children to actively learn road safety behaviours with their parents and families. The kit provides students with fun activities to increase their awareness of road safety with very easy to understand key messages on, for example, how to cross a road, wearing a helmet and seat belt, and to be a cool and road smart kid. I believe that if we provide children with the right tools and right education from the start of school road safety will become second nature to them as adults, thus making this campaign a great state government initiative.

I also welcome the kit containing an information guide for parents outlining the importance of road safety for children, an activity booklet for students and parents to read together, a school tag and a magnetic photo frame designed with key school road safety messages. School posters highlighting the key road safety messages have also been distributed to school principals to hang around the schools to remind students of the importance of learning about road safety. The kits have been designed to ensure that each and every student is road safe and to incorporate the road safety learning within the family unit, helping to ensure that every Queensland road user practises safe behaviours. Additionally, resources will

be available on the Transport website for all students to access and use, such as colouring-in activities, screen savers and downloadable versions of the back-to-school pack contents.

Road safety kits have been given to primary school students for the past decade, because this government wants to ensure that over time all students have been exposed to road safety messages. School transport safety is a serious, long-term investment in our children's future that the Bligh government is keen to promote. I think this year's kit is really well designed and fun looking. It has been revised to feature a road safety hero sharing his handy tips and hints with students and parents on what to do in different road situations. It is an absolute delight to see the preppies and year 1 students raise their hands in unison when asked, 'Who wants to be a road safety hero?' and eagerly wanting to ask questions and make comments on good road safety practices that they have learned already.

The Queensland government wants to ensure that parents, carers and children are road safety ready, and starting young with a good educational program is a positive step forward in achieving our goals. The key messages to the prep and year 1 students are simple yet powerful: be cool and be a road smart kid and road safety hero; always wear your helmet, always wear your seatbelt, always be careful when crossing the road; stop, look, listen and think; always wait for the bus to move away before crossing the road; always get in and out of the car at the kerbside. They are great messages and this is a great government initiative.