




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Children in Hot Cars; SEQ Stars

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.46 pm): I can assure the member for Dalrymple that in the whips office we only use fresh Queensland milk and we will continue to do so. When local resident Mandy Petrie first contacted me on Facebook I did not know the gravity and drama of the issue about which she was going to talk to me. She told me the story of walking through a car park of a local shopping centre, which I will not name because it is not their responsibility but it is a very serious issue. She came across a baby locked inside a car. In this particular car park there are some sunshades, so the baby was not in imminent danger of dying but was very sweaty and was soon to become distressed. She immediately contacted security, who brought in the police, and then she brought the issue to me. Mandy Petrie, the young woman involved, was not just someone to complain, to come and suggest that it was simply a problem. She said—

You hear about but when you see it and see a baby asleep and you have got to walk up to a car and see if that baby is still alive, it made it a bit more real I guess.

She wanted to make a difference; she wanted to start a campaign. That is why I joined her. Together, we conducted an experiment on Thursday of last week at Browns Plains aimed at educating the public about the dangers of children and animals being locked in hot cars. We advertised on *Jimboomba Times* that we were going to place a temperature gauge inside my Commodore ute on a particular day and we asked people to follow us on Facebook to see the temperature. We built up the experiment quite a bit so I was quite nervous. What if it was unseasonably cold? What if it was overcast that day? As it turns out, it was quite a cool and breezy day so I was worried about how hot it would get, especially as we had the journalist from the *Jimboomba Times* there to witness the experiment. Mandy was on hand as well.

I took the temperature gauge, which was a large-faced LCD one for the purposes of the media, and I put it in the front of the car. As the temperature rose, the screen began to black out. In fact, it quickly became so hot—30 degrees, 40 degrees, 45 degrees—it blacked out, so we had to turn the air-conditioning on and cool it down. Then we realised that the temperature had gotten to 53 degrees. That would quickly damage any young child and create brain and intestinal damage. Mandy and I wish to really highlight to the House and Queenslanders in general that people need to guard against ever leaving kids in cars, even briefly.

I also want to update the House on the SEQ Stars, who went down to the Melbourne Boomers and we thought their season was over. But against the second place Dandenong Rangers—and I know the member for Sandgate knows this—they struck back 88-64 to win the game and a place in the finals. I hope they can go all the way, beat Townsville and be champions after their adversity.