



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Mayfield State School

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.56 pm): This evening I wish to raise a serious concern about a school in my great electorate of Chatsworth. Undoubtedly, all of my colleagues in this chamber understand the importance of road safety, particularly when it comes to our littlest Queenslanders. I still remember holding the hands of my two sons when they were young and reminding them to look left, look right and then left again before crossing a road. While I can tell my children until I am blue in the face to check both directions before crossing a road, I cannot tell a car to slow down or to look out for a small child. I cannot remind a person in a car while they are travelling home from work, heading to a meeting, getting groceries or even just going for coffee that children are unpredictable. It is those factors that I cannot control that greatly concern me.

Mayfield State School is a wonderful school in my electorate, situated in the suburban streets to the west of Creek Road. Its main drop-off and collection gate is accessed via Rickwood Street, adjacent to Kordick Street and is at the top of a hill. Rickwood Street is a popular local thoroughfare, which, as a result of student numbers at Mayfield State School, sees a high volume of traffic during school hours. It is due to mounting congestion that Brisbane City Council saw fit to install a small drop-off zone to the benefit of parents. However, this drop-off zone has not fixed the problem of road safety; rather, it has improved the flow along the street for motorists.

It is for this reason I met with the school principal and a representative of the P&C, who voiced their concerns about the lack of a lollipop person for Rickwood Street. I was shocked when I learned that the school had applied for one on several occasions, simply to be rejected as apparently too few students cross the road. I visited this school during peak hour and witnessed firsthand the number of cars that use this street. I witnessed cars rolling through the stop sign on Kordick Street and pulling straight into the school crossing, motorists not paying attention and slamming on the brakes, and children sprinting across the street after their friends when there was a break in the traffic. Needless to say, as a parent, this struck a chord with me.

I am simply appalled that the government would put children's lives at risk simply because they do not believe there are enough children crossing a street. Essentially, it appears that more children need to be put at risk before this government believes there is an issue. How many lives need to be lost before this street is considered dangerous enough to warrant a lollipop person? This concern led me to launch a petition, which received more than 250 signatures, calling on the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports to urgently have a lollipop person assigned to Mayfield State School. I now table this nonconforming petition.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding Mayfield State School lollipop person [[1254](#)].

Without someone to guide children and control traffic along the street, I remain concerned that I will receive a phone call from the hard-working principal advising me that an accident has occurred.