




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise in the House tonight to celebrate a vital road safety achievement for the St Catherine's Catholic Primary School community in my electorate of Mansfield. Located on busy and undulating Newnham Road at Wishart, St Catherine's was founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1973 and the school has continued to grow in its mission to provide education in a spirit of outreach to the marginalised. The staff are a highly committed professional group of educators who continually strive for best practice, innovation and creativity.

For the years I was principal at Cavendish Road State High School I would drive past St Catherine's on my way to and from work, often perplexed as to why this school did not have a 40-kilometre zone like all other schools in the area. In fact, my own school was and is located on Cavendish Road, which is an extension of Newnham Road, and it had a 40-kilometre zone. Throughout my campaign leading up to the 2017 election, this was my opportunity to address this important safety issue for our young people of Wishart State School and St Catherine's. I worked closely with both schools, our parent community and local residents. In listening to the St Catherine's community I heard very disturbing stories of the large number of cars entering and exiting the school—in many cases turning in front of oncoming traffic travelling way too fast for a school zone—and the near misses caused by the inability of exiting traffic to see oncoming vehicles.

As a former high school principal, I took personal responsibility for my students' and families' safety. Now, as their local member, I will fight passionately and tenaciously for the safety of my community. I established a petition and coordinated and chaired community meetings that were attended by school staff and parents, local residents, ministerial Transport and Main Roads advisers and representatives, and the Brisbane City councillor and traffic management representatives. It took great perseverance and tenacity in pursuing the local LNP councillor to take action. However, I am delighted to announce that finally the Brisbane City Council has listened to my community and has indicated that a 40-kilometre-per-hour school zone will be constructed during these Easter school holidays, ready in time for the start of term 2.

This is a great example of my community standing together to support long-awaited and much needed change—change that will ultimately result in greater safety for the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community, our children. I thank the entire school community for their support and efforts to make the new school zone a reality. In particular, I acknowledge Principal Paul Leeson, P&F President Paul Hillberg and past parent Mel Cavell, who led and activated the school community throughout this campaign.