




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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ADJOURNMENT

National Road Safety Week

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.26 pm): Today members of this House have been wearing yellow ribbons to acknowledge National Road Safety Week, which this year will be held from 6-10 May. National Road Safety Week is an annual initiative of Safer Australian Roads and Highways, or SARAH Group, led by president Peter Frazer and supported by the Palaszczuk state government, which encourages all Australians to drive so others survive. Mr Frazer works tirelessly to advocate for improved road safety in Australia following the tragic death of his daughter Sarah, who was killed in 2012 by a passing truck driver as she attended to her broken-down vehicle along with the roadside assistance officer who had come to her aid.

Each May National Road Safety Week aims to shine a light on road safety by lighting prominent landmarks in yellow. In Brisbane, our iconic Story Bridge, Parliament House and other landmarks will glow yellow as a reminder to reflect on this most important issue that affects all of us. Wearing a yellow lapel ribbon is another simple yet salient way to raise awareness and to provoke conversations about the topic with workmates, with family members and with friends. I thank all members for wearing a ribbon today and for all they do to promote road safety in this state. These ribbons are a symbol of our shared goal to improve road safety for all Queenslanders and all people who use our roads.

When crashes happen the communities lose loved ones in tragic circumstances and everybody suffers. The investigations into these terrible crashes are left to the brave emergency services workers, who wish that each visit to each one of these scenes would be their last. Certainly the recent case well reported seemingly involving distraction shows we have a long way to go in terms of getting that safety message across, particularly for that young cohort, who remain a high risk.

The Palaszczuk government's target for Queensland's road toll is zero. That sounds ambitious, but how could we have any other aim? As of today, Queensland's road toll for 2019 stands at 65. That is 65 deaths so far and we are only one-third of the way through this year. So far this has been one of the better years, one of the lowest years to date. We are going to see a lot more tragedy on our roads as the year progresses.

Members of this House have also demonstrated their commitment to road safety today by signing their Fatality Free Friday pledge and visiting the vehicle that was here at Parliament House. Held annually since 2007, Fatality Free Friday is the nation's largest community based road safety initiative. In the lead-up to Friday, 31 May, the ARSF will call on drivers to make a pledge to road safety with the aim of reducing the nation's road toll not just on Fatality Free Friday but every day of the year. Speeding, distraction, alcohol and drugs, fatigue and not wearing a seatbelt continue to be major causes of death on our roads, and I urge every Queenslanders to be a part of the campaign.