




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise to support the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022. Many of the previous speakers in this debate have talked about the people who are tragically killed on our roads, and any death is one too many. My more personal and direct experience of traffic accidents is not so much the people who are killed but the people who survive.

I have done a little bit of work in an ED, but my most recent experience of caring for people who have been impacted by road accidents or crashes came in the rehabilitation unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and it really does have massive impacts on people. We had people who were often in hospital for six to 12 months, which is a really long time. That has a massive impact on their families if their families survive the crash. On several occasions I would see the intergenerational impacts of these road accidents with mum or dad or grandparents being injured and that having flow-on and knock-on effects through the entire family.

We all agree on the importance of road safety. I am pleased to see that revenue from camera detected offences will be used more broadly for road safety. It is good to see that we are taking a more proactive approach to solve some of these road safety problems. There is excellent research into making cars safer. There is a lot of great work around the Fatal Five. There is always more that we can do in this space. I like the Rotary program of providing drivers for those kids who may not have a parent or an adult who can be with them in the car for 100 hours. I would like to give whichever public servant invented spending 100 hours with your teenage kid in a car a big hug because at a time when your kid stops speaking to you they have forced them to sit in a car with you for 100 hours. It is a great way to reconnect with your kids. If the minister can find the public servant who invented that they have my absolute support.

As I said, I like the fact that this bill has taken a broader brush to what is considered road safety. I do not have to go far in my electorate to see those sorts of funded programs rolling out. Most schools now have flashing yellow lights and they do make a big difference. They make you sit up and take notice when you are driving through those school zones.

I was pleased to read the sections around offering legal protections for health professionals. If you have ever been involved in telling a patient that they are not going to be able to drive again you will see why we need those protections. I will never forget the night I had a patient who had had a mini stroke. He was down in ED. The nurse on duty brought the patient up to the ward. He was 100 years old. We settled him into bed, did all the things that we normally do, but his very first question to us was, 'Can I keep driving?' I had to say, 'I'm sorry, mate, but you've had a TIA, it is an automatic three-month suspension from your driver's licence.' He was devastated. I said, 'It's only three months.' He said, 'Mate, when you're 100 years old that is a long time.' He took it in good spirits though.

I have seen many people who have had their licence removed for medical reasons. It has a huge impact on their personal freedom and their capacity to meet their daily needs. That ties in well with the changes in this bill in relation to MMDs. Increasing the capacity and the range of those vehicles that are available for people and allowing them to have vehicles that are more fit for purpose is a step forward. The mobility device gives people the capacity to continue to do their shopping, to get to the pharmacy, to get to the bank or to get down to the local club. This bill allows people to be more mobile and continue to engage in the community in a fulsome way.

There are many elements of the bill that are commendable. The minister is doing an excellent job in terms of promoting road safety. Road safety is challenging in particular when it comes to the younger age groups. They do not think the way that older adults think. We know there is a lot of risk-taking behaviour. We have to continue to invest in the great road safety programs we are rolling out in schools, those targeted messages I see all the time on various social media platforms and continue to do our best to help young people make good and safe decisions. The provisions in this bill will assist us to make available funds for doing just that. I commend the bill to the House.