

**Question on Notice
No. 1385
Asked on 6 October 2009**

MR DOWLING asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

Given that 25 per cent of road fatalities involve not wearing of restraints (which is 0.4 per cent less than speeding)—

What strategy has the Minister put in place to reduce this contributor to the road toll?

ANSWER:

The basic premise of the Member's question is incorrect. While one in four vehicle occupants who died in fatal road crashes were not wearing seatbelts, they comprised 9 percent of the total road toll in Queensland in 2008.

Every death on our roads is a tragedy and it is unacceptable that people are dying because of a failure to wear a seatbelt.

The Bligh Government will not tolerate the dangerous attitudes of some drivers who flout the law and continue to break basic road rules.

This Government's *Queensland Road Safety Action Plan 2008 – 2009* has a number of initiatives aimed at improving restraint usage. These include improving child restraint laws, influencing the development and adoption of vehicle safety features that encourage restraint use and encouraging better use of restraints in the community.

Enforcement continues to be one of the most effective ways of encouraging people to comply with the requirements of the law regarding the use of restraints. Accordingly, in 2008 police issued 23,250 seatbelt-related infringement notices in Queensland.

Seatbelt-related offences have been and will continue to be specifically targeted as part of special police operations carried out during high-risk periods for road safety, such as the Easter and Christmas/New Year holidays.

In addition to enforcement measures, education plays an important role in encouraging people to obey the road rules. This education occurs as part of police presentations to school students and community groups about road safety issues, including the importance of wearing a seatbelt. Queensland Transport also conducts educational campaigns targeting life-threatening offences such as failure to wear a seatbelt.

The Government makes no apology for the continued enforcement of the road rules and doing what is necessary to ensure the safety of the motoring public.