



Speech by

## Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 17 September 2009

---

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Road Safety, Children

**Hon. RG NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.15 am): With the September school holidays starting in just a couple of days I would like to remind Queensland motorists to drive safely on our roads. The Queensland government has recently launched a range of road safety initiatives and reforms to address the rising road toll.

Last week I announced that from 11 March 2010 all children up to seven years must be seated in a child restraint. Seat belts, including child restraints, improve a passenger's chances of surviving a serious crash by up to 50 per cent. A child restraint can be a capsule, child car seat or booster seat that secures and restrains a newborn baby, infant or child while travelling in a vehicle. Drivers can be fined \$300 and three demerits points for travelling with an unrestrained or incorrectly restrained child in a vehicle.

The government has also just launched a new road safety campaign encouraging drivers to wake up to the warning signs of driver fatigue which was a factor in 44 deaths on Queensland roads last year. Fatigue is a silent killer that creeps up on all motorists at any time of the day regardless of how experienced the driver is.

Driver revival sites operate during school and public holidays throughout Queensland and I encourage holiday-makers to make full use of them. In recent weeks we have had our inspectors out across the state doing vehicle safety inspections and extra police will be on the roads through the holiday period.

Finally, the government promotes road safety with campaigns that aim to cut through the advertising noise and convince Queenslanders to take responsibility for their own actions on the road. The most recent campaign 'Share my story' has just been recognised with two prestigious awards from the Australian Marketing Institute. Launched in January, 'Share my story' is an interactive website to illustrate the emotional and physical impact of crashes through the voices of ordinary Queenslanders.

Over 26,000 people have visited the site to which 231 stories have been submitted. I commend those involved in it, both for this professional recognition and for their undoubted contribution to improving road safety for Queenslanders.