

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — YOUTH DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS —
MIDWEST REGION

618. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Road Safety:

Can the minister please advise the house —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is enough!

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Can the minister please advise the house how the Liberal–National government is using road trauma trust account funds to improve road safety outcomes for young people in the midwest region?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Geraldton for the question and, indeed, his interest in the record \$146 million allocation from the road trauma trust account for the next financial year to deal with road safety initiatives across the regions and metro Perth. I am very pleased to announce that the Rotary Club of Geraldton has been successful in achieving a road trauma trust account grant.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Indeed; it is the member's club, so he might participate in the project.

This grant will achieve two youth driver education programs for years 10 and 11 students across the midwest district. The program will be delivered to Geraldton Grammar School; Geraldton Senior High School; Kalbarri, Mullewa and Morawa District High Schools; and Nagle Catholic College. The program will reinforce the four pillars of the safe systems approach of the Towards Zero strategy, which is safer road use, safer speeds, safer vehicles and safer roads and road signs. They will also engage with students on the areas that we know are at risk and the areas that are the major causes of fatal and serious injury crashes. The students will learn about road law; they will learn about the effects of drugs and alcohol on their driving; they will learn about the effects of fatigue and distraction; and they will learn about the Australasian New Car Assessment Program safety rating system for vehicles so that they understand how important safer vehicles might be for them. In addition, they will engage with people who have been victims of road trauma. In particular, one of the six interactive sessions will involve a survivor of road trauma—a young man whose life has been significantly changed following a serious crash as a P-plater after having had his licence for only two weeks. I think that particular speaker will have a significant impact on those young drivers. We know that young people who engage in these sorts of programs say that they feel they are better informed and are more willing to make better and safer choices when they are driving.

The program will go also into areas of specific challenges for driving. In the midwest region, as we know, there are long stretches of road where students need to be particularly conscious of the effects of fatigue, and also of the difference between driving on a sealed road and an unsealed road, because obviously different driving techniques are required for both, and we need to keep our young people safe as they encounter those very different road conditions in the midwest region.

So, congratulations to the Rotary Club of Geraldton, member for Geraldton. I hope the member can advise the club that he has raised this issue in Parliament today. I am really pleased to see the road trauma trust account spend going out to local groups like this to get to grassroots level in our communities and make an impact on our young drivers to help reverse the road toll in regional WA.