

ROAD SAFETY — SCHOOL ZONES

418. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Road Safety:

Can the minister update the house on the Liberal–National government’s commitment to reducing road trauma in school zones?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Morley for this question and for his continued interest in road safety. I am really pleased and proud of this program. During the estimates committee hearings, members opposite described this as my pet project. I can hand-on-heart say that I am very pleased with this road safety initiative, which involves the installation of flashing 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone signs outside every one of our 1 072 schools across the state. It is not an insubstantial commitment, \$36 million over four years, and it was noted that the rollout of this program has been very well received by local communities, school communities and members of Parliament alike. I was pretty disturbed during that estimates process to have this initiative called some kind of political pork-barrelling exercise. The road safety merits of the program were being questioned by the member for Midland, who I notice is interjecting.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Even if there were no fatalities or serious injuries in school zones, I would support this program because we must do everything we can to protect our most vulnerable road users—those of course being children—and ensure that motorists slow down in the vicinity of schoolchildren. The unfortunate reality is that there have been two deaths and 74 serious injuries.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know that people opposite do not care about the safety of our children and pedestrians in school zones.

The SPEAKER: Minister, can you come back to the point, please.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I call on the minister to withdraw that comment. To suggest that people on this side of the house do not care about the safety of schoolchildren is a shocking, disgraceful and deceitful thing to say and she should apologise.

The SPEAKER: Member, I have just read out about the use of a point of order to debate. Carry on, please, minister.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am not using it to debate; I am asking for the minister to apologise for deceiving the house.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In this house when we talk about issues —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In this house when we talk about issues of interest and concern, the way to appropriately demonstrate —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Usually when people are interested in and place a high degree of relevance on an issue, they listen to it in silence and do not interject; they listen to what people have to say. In this house respect is shown for and importance is placed on matters when they are listened to in silence.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! We are getting a wall of noise again.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: There have been two fatalities and 74 serious injuries in our school zones while they have been in operation over the past 10 years. That is why we on this side of the house support this program and why members welcome it.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will visit the member for Midland's electorate and have a photograph taken with her —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am happy to come out to any member's electorate —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: On the one hand we get told this is a political pork-barrelling exercise and on the other hand we get criticised for not inviting members to be a part of it.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Here is the member's invitation: the next time a 40-kilometre-per-hour flashing sign is installed at a school zone in Midland, I will come out and have a photograph with the member for Midland. She either supports it or she does not. She either wants a photograph or she does not. If she thinks it is a good program, she should support the program —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Where and when?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Engage with —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I want the minister to speak to the Chair and draw this to a conclusion.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The invitation is there. It is a good program, it is well supported by the community and we are proud of it. Yes, it is my pet project and I am really proud of it, as is the Minister for Transport and all members of Parliament. I welcome members opposite to be part of it and improve road safety in Western Australia.