

Road Trauma — Adjournment Debate

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.21 pm]: Before I proceed, I want to acknowledge that I am impressed at how much a man of parts Hon Ken Travers is. I find his expertise on matters as diverse as nappies and toilet paper truly absorbing!

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! It is Thursday afternoon.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Thank you, Mr President. I will not take up very much of the house's time. As members are aware, on Tuesday evening, at about six o'clock, my wife, Robyn, was involved in a motor vehicle accident. I was called away from the house to attend upon her. She was taken to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and she was there for several hours while she was being checked and undergoing some treatment. I suppose it was a reminder to me, in probably about as benign a manner as possible, of the potential ramifications of road trauma, not only for those who are the victims of those sorts of accidents and events, but also for their families and for those who are bereaved as a result of road trauma. As it happens, Robyn was not seriously injured. She may have a hairline fracture of her left ankle. She certainly received some abrasions, bruises and the like, but was otherwise unharmed. She is suffering considerable bodily pain and of course is shaken up by it. But her injuries are not serious compared with the sort of trauma that is faced by many people who are affected by accidents on our roads every day.

Another thing that the circumstances of that incident indicated to me was that no matter what rules and regulations we may pass, and no matter what the recommendations of road safety councils and the like may be, there will always be those moments of inattention on the part of a driver which are beyond the control of the victim and which may result in serious harm or death. Fortunately, that did not happen in this case.

I also want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the professionalism and sensitivity of those who attended upon her. I say that on my behalf as well as hers. There was a young police constable and his partner. I do not know who the constable's partner was, but the constable's name is Daniel Simpson. I found him trying to take a statement from her when she was in hospital to find out a little bit about the circumstances of the incident, and I must say that his sensitivity and professionalism impressed me deeply for an officer who is plainly quite young. I do not know how long he has been in the job, but, nevertheless, he was diligent and careful about his responsibilities. I would also like to thank the staff at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the ambulance staff that conveyed her there, for their professionalism and their attention.

I would also like to thank at this opportunity members and staff of this place for the sensitivity and kindness shown to me. Robyn and I have been genuinely touched by the interest shown by my colleagues and fellow members, and by the staff of this place. I want to say how much we appreciate that. Although perish the thought that anyone else may be in a like situation, whether they are under stress or suffer some loss or hazard, I hope that I will not be found wanting in those circumstances. It has made me very appreciative and very proud to be a member of this place. I would like to take this opportunity on my behalf and also on Robyn's to thank all.