Submission No 30

REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY ISSUES FOR FUTURE INQUIRY

Organisation: Federation of Parents and Citizens Association of NSW

Date Received: 18 September 2018

Review of road safety issues for future inquiry

Submission to Staysafe (Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety)

September 2018

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Introduction

Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) is thankful to the NSW Department of Education for this opportunity to contribute feedback into this review into road safety issues for future inquiry. P&C Federation supports the position of individual educational and developmental needs met by a range of differential services expressed through appropriate and well-planned curricula, programs and environments conducted by sensitive and well-trained personnel in conjunction with parents¹ and families.

The core belief of P&C Federation is that the education of our children and youth is the most fundamental means of ensuring individual and collective success and, as a result, our greatest national resource.

P&C Federation Response

We suggest an inquiry be established that considers the provision of Kiss and Drop Zones for public schools. We have been alerted by numerous members to either the absence of Kiss and Drop zones, or to existing Kiss and Drop zones having inadequate safety protections for students, or to principals closing off access to carparks that provide the only safe space for dropping students due to the school being located on busy main roads that have high levels of heavy vehicle traffic. Other concerns brought to our attention include patrolled pedestrian crossings operating on only one side of a busy roads, school zones being immediately adjacent to zones with a 100km/h speed limit, and Kiss and Drop requiring urgent repairs and maintenance. Some Kiss and Drop zones are also plagued by illegal parking.

Moreover, the need for additional Kiss and Drop zones will inevitably increase with the projected surge in enrolment numbers in New South Wales Government schools, especially in and around metropolitan Sydney. This surge may result in a dramatic increase in traffic congestion and strain on existing Kiss and Drop zones. Meeting this demand will therefore entail upgrading or increasing Kiss and Drop zones in many schools. It is worth noting that the safety of children and youth is of the utmost importance for all of us and Government. In particular, the safety of Kiss and Drop zones is of especial importance for all students.

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¹ "Parent" refers to anyone with legal care of a child, such as a parent, carer or legal guardian