

Final Report 2024 Road Safety Fund Grant Project

Saints Peter and Paul Primary School

Being a Wise Road User- Wisdom Street, Garran

Saints Peter and Paul Primary School is located in the vicinity of Malkara School, Saints Peter and Paul Church and a number of Aged Care Residences. The precinct provides education and care to primary school students, students with moderate and severe intellectual disabilities and elderly residents- members of our community who are the most vulnerable road users. With the assistance of our Road Safety Grant we were able to involve our Year Five and Year Six students in the designing and production of a road safety campaign to educate our school community, people who access the precinct and the wider Woden Valley population about the importance of correctly using the road system in the area to ensure the safety of all.

We produced a series of posters and short videos that teach and model road safe behaviour for use on our websites and social media accounts as well as those sites accessed by the wider community. We spoke to the Malkara community and considered their students' unique needs when designing and producing these resources as well as residents of the aged care facilities in the precinct.

The precinct within which Saints Peter and Paul's Primary School is built is shared with some of the most vulnerable road users- due to unpredictability and impairments. We saw it to be a social responsibility to inform the community about the need for correct road safety procedures to be followed to ensure the protection of all. The resources were designed in response to problems we experience on a daily basis such as the incorrect and unsafe use of the road system around both schools due to the lack of understanding about the road system. The resources target students, community members and visitors to the precinct to increase awareness, on ways in which they can support vulnerable road users. The resources were designed to educate and model safe road practices within the area for our students who will be future drivers. The resources provided explicit diagrams and illustrations, and video explanations on how to use one way streets, use designated areas in our carline, turning circles, pedestrian crossings, awareness of concealed entrances and safely merging lanes. The resources are designed to target students, families and visitors to our school. The resources will primarily be provided through websites and social media channels as well as the display of posters in the precinct and the wider community such as local supermarkets.

Objectives

- Increase knowledge of road safety rules among primary school students.
- Encourage parents and caregivers to model safe behaviors during school drop-off and pick-up.
- Support teachers and staff in reinforcing safety messages.
- Reduce traffic-related risks in the immediate school environment.

Activities Undertaken

- **Content Development:** Collaborated with our Community Council, Malkara primary school, to design age-appropriate scripts.

- **Poster Production:** As part of the road safety awareness initiative a series of educational activities was undertaken with Year 6 students. Traffic patterns around the school were recorded on video to capture real-life examples of road use. The students then viewed the footage in class, where they received an explanation of relevant road rules and traffic safety guidelines. Together with their teachers, the students analysed the video to identify instances where road rules were not being followed correctly, such as unsafe pedestrian behaviour or improper vehicle movements. This analysis formed the foundation for their poster designs, which aimed to highlight key safety messages based on the issues observed. The students created a mix of digital and hand-drawn posters, using both creativity and critical thinking to communicate their road safety messages to the school community.
- **Video Production:** Created 6 short videos (2–3 minutes each) covering key topics:
 - Safe entry to our carpark
 - Road Safety Special Needs
 - Using the Crossings
 - Correct Entry Matters
 - Drive Through Done Right
 - Keep Off The Grass Park Right
- **Community Engagement:** Videos shared at school assemblies, at information evenings, on our website and on our Facebook page. Posters have been shared in our newsletter and on our Facebook page.
- **Feedback Collection:** Surveys conducted with parents, teachers, and students to measure impact. Discussions with our Year 5 and 6 students. Ongoing discussions with our Community Council Parent Body. Recording of road behaviours during drop off and pick up times to be used as an observational tool.

Outcomes & Impact

- **Student Learning:** Over 90% of surveyed students reported better understanding of crossing rules.
- **Parental Awareness:** Parents indicated improved compliance with school zone speed limits and safer drop-off practices. The parent body would like to continue to work collaboratively with the School Crossing Supervisor Program.
- **School Culture:** Teachers integrated videos into classroom discussions, reinforcing safety messages.
- **Risk Reduction:** Observed decrease in unsafe behaviors during peak traffic times around the school.
- **Pick Up Routines:** The way we organise our pick up and drop off routines has been modified through the use of witches hats as we blocked off one car park due to safety concerns as children were running into car parks to be picked up by parents in unsupervised areas.

Challenges

- Limited time for video production during school term.
- Need for ongoing reinforcement beyond initial video rollout.

- Parent feedback indicates a desire for the school to continue to work closely with the School Crossing Supervisor Program to ensure the safety of children on the Wisdom Street crossing.

Recommendations

- Continue producing updated content annually to keep safety messages fresh.
- Expand distribution through local council and community channels.
- Integrate videos into curriculum as part of health and safety education.

Conclusion

The Road Safety Grant enabled the creation of impactful educational resources that have strengthened our primary school community's understanding and practice of road safety. The videos have proven effective in raising awareness, and fostering a safer environment around the school. Continued investment in such initiatives will ensure long-term benefits for students, families, and the wider community.