

# Courier Mail

Queensland

## School zone speedsters spark outrage, prompting calls for double demerit points

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ALERT: Katrina Smith with sons Flynn and Isaac and niece Ella outside Windsor State School. Picture: Peter Wallis

Source: The Courier-Mail

**ALMOST 50 motorists a day are caught speeding in Queensland school zones, prompting calls for tougher penalties and double demerit points.**

In the first half of this year, more than 8800 leadfoots were nabbed, and last year nearly 16,000 forked out \$3.4 million in fines - up 30 per cent from 2009.

Most drivers were doing between 13km/h and 20km/h more than they should.

Just under 2600 were in excess of 20km/h over the limit and 239 were travelling 30km/h over the speed limit, according to Department of Transport and Main Roads figures obtained by *The Courier-Mail* under Right to Information legislation.

The worst spot was at Toowong in Brisbane's west, where nearly 500 motorists were caught.

**See Tuesday's print edition of The Courier-Mail for the top 20 hot spots for school zone speeding**

But despite the State Government's recent announcement of more prominent signs, child safety experts say they will not be enough to protect children.

Kidsafe Queensland chief executive Susan Teerds said there needed to be a mixture of preventative and punitive measures.

"We need to educate the kids, have the flashing lights and then have double demerit points for repeat offenders," she said.

"There's a lot of things we should do and I think we should be doing it all. You've got to protect children."

Latest figures show 28 youngsters died in the 2009-10 financial year according to the Commission for Children and Young People.

Ms Teerds said most injuries involving children occurred while getting on and off buses as well as while crossing the road.

"They can't tell how fast a car is going or whether it can stop in time," she said.

Windsor State School mother Katrina Smith said she had witnessed motorists regularly exceed the speed limit.

"I think the pick-up zone can get a bit hairy sometimes," she said.

"You do get a few people roaring along here and it is a bit of a worry," she said.

"I do notice it and it seems like it's usually some of the younger drivers you see some afternoons."

She said while police occasionally set up radar traps to catch offenders she believed more could be done.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Anastacia Palaszczuk said as well as better signage, the Government would also standardise the times for school speeding zones next year.

"By Easter, school zones in southeast Queensland will operate standard times - 7am to 9am and 2pm to 4pm, except where a school needs extended operating hours, she said.

"By July, the rest of the state will have standard times across each council area."

Currently, more than 2000 school zones across the state operate on different times set independently by local councils or the State Government.

However, Ms Palaszczuk refused to comment about double demerit points or increased fines for drivers.

QPS Traffic Inspector Sean O'Neill said police would continue cracking down on speeding in school zones.

"We have a lot more of the school principals notifying police of incidents and also parents notifying their local police that there is speeding," he said.

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