

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

August 28, 2024

**Celebrating 40 years of school crossing safety**

- Queensland's School Crossing Supervisor Scheme marks its 40th anniversary.
- There have been no fatalities at supervised crossings since the scheme began in 1984.
- 2053 supervisors oversee 1333 crossings at 714 schools across Queensland.

For 40 years, the Transport and Main Roads (TMR) School Crossing Supervisor Scheme has provided safe passage for millions of students travelling to and from school.

Since the scheme began in 1984, there hasn't been a single fatality at any supervised crossing, thanks to the 2053 school crossing supervisors overseeing 1333 crossings at 714 schools across the state.

Many supervisors have served their communities for years, even decades, forming close and lasting bonds with the children and families they help protect.

In a special highlight, three of the original supervisors continue to serve with the same dedication and enthusiasm they had four decades ago. These supervisors are:

- **Pamela Murphy at Coolangatta State School**
- **Sharon Byrne at Killarney State School**
- **June Murry at Mackay Central State School**

Their ongoing commitment illustrates the positive impact of their roles in the community.

To continue to keep families safe, the Queensland Government will provide funding for a further 29 crossing supervisors, who will start at Queensland schools from now until 30 June, 2025.

This builds on the 29 new supervisors who started in 2023-24, and is part of a \$3.135 million expansion of the program.

**Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Minister Bart Mellish:**

"This milestone of 40 years is not just a celebration of our dedicated supervisors but also a recognition of the incredible collaborative effort between the Queensland Government, local councils, and school communities.

"A heartfelt thank you to the three supervisors who have been in the scheme for the entire 40 years. Your commitment to safety is truly commendable, you have the whole of Queensland behind you in recognition of your service.

"I extend my sincere gratitude to every supervisor who has contributed to the scheme during the past 40 years, as well as the dedicated TMR staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

"We also renew our call to all road users: please prioritise safety in school zones. Slow down, stay alert, follow directions, and be courteous to ensure a safe environment for everyone."

**Third party quotes- Attributed to School Crossing Supervisors**

## **Pamela Murphy**

“I have always been aware of community safety and being a School Crossing Supervisor was another caring role, especially with children. I enjoy that, keeping them safe and being outdoors, despite the changing weather.

“It’s very rewarding when people tell us we’re ‘doing a great job’ and respect us for it and the children who greet and talk us and tell us ‘it’s my birthday’ and ‘look what I’ve got’, not to mention the walkers with their beautiful happy dogs.

“My advice to drivers is to please take notice and be patient. Most drivers are, and we notice and appreciate that.”

## **Sharon Byrne**

“I saw an opportunity to give back to the community while still being available to parent on school holidays, and still find it to be a very rewarding occupation.

“I could write a book from my time as a supervisor, anything from snakes on crossings to dodging rubbish falling out of passing vehicles. A long list of memorable and humorous events.

“There’s been many improvements to safety during the past 40 years, including improvements to the crossing infrastructure, such as flashing lights and the implementation of kerb extensions to improve pedestrian safety.

“Another significant improvement to safety is our increased visibility through PPE. Initially we had a long white doctor-like coat with an orange sash. We wore thongs in summer with a tennis visor.”

## **June Murry**

“I had children going to Moranbah State School and it was a good steppingstone back into the workforce. I love watching the kids grow up into adulthood and having them recognise me at the shops. A lot of them are now Mums and Dads.

“We now have more people on our roads and it’s imperative that operational crossings are manned for the safety of our young.”

### **Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):**

For more information about the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/safety/school-road-safety/safe-school-travel-safest](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/safety/school-road-safety/safe-school-travel-safest).

## **ENDS**

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