

It is of great concern that Police from both Melton and Caroline Springs have seen an escalation of violence and aggression towards School Crossing Supervisors and School Staff monitoring school drop off and pick up.

With students returning to “normal” school attendance there is an increase in traffic congestion in and around schools and with this the aggression and frustration of a number of drivers.

Police would like to remind all drivers that the bottom line is SAFETY. The role of the Crossing Supervisor is there to ensure the roads are safely crossed by all pedestrians and the laws are in place to protect everyone.

We have seen reports of appalling behaviour that include serious threats and violence which nobody should be subject to. Some of the infringement notices that can be issued in response to this problematic behaviour are:

- Fail to stop and remain stationary at children’s crossing
- Fail to stop at the stop line when a handled stop sign is displayed, or a pedestrian is entering or on the crossing
- Proceed after stopping when the handheld stop sign is still displayed
- Proceed after stopping while a pedestrian is on or entering the crossing
- Pass stopped vehicle at children’s crossing or pedestrian crossing

All of these offences carry a fine of \$454 and 3 demerit points.

Along with this is the illegal and dangerous stopping of vehicles in and around schools, particularly in the afternoon. Whilst it may be frustrating and not convenient, Police are asking that drivers make an effort to legally park their car and to refrain from remaining stationary on road causing traffic to bank up and create a dangerous environment. Walking a short distance to collect your child is far safer than causing a collision that could injure many.

As we move into Term 2 a number of operations will target school zones where infringement notices will be issued to those failing to follow the Road Rules. Some examples of the penalties are:

- Drive motor vehicle on a path, nature strip, traffic island or dividing strip – Penalty \$182
- Fail to obey traffic direction given by police officer or authorised person – Penalty \$363 & 3 demerit points
- Drive unlawfully in a bicycle lane – Penalty \$273
- Stopped contrary to a no parking sign – Penalty \$36
- Stopped on a nature strip – Penalty \$109

**THIS IS ABOUT SAFETY OF ALL IN PARTICULAR OUR LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN**