

PARENTS REMINDED TO PRACTISE AND PREACH ROAD SAFETY

For parents, the school run can be a stressful time of the day – but Hornsby Hospital’s Dr Clare Skinner is reminding them to put safety at the front of their minds.

The Director of Emergency Medicine said she has seen a number of incidents that have concerned her both as a professional and a parent.

“Dropping the kids off and picking them up from school becomes part of every parents’ routine, but what shouldn’t be part of it is poor road safety practices,” Dr Skinner said.

“As a parent, I’ve seen some others do things in school drop off zones that they really shouldn’t be doing, like three point turns or using their mobiles and they don’t seem to realise they are putting kids at risk.

“Then I come to work in emergency, and I see children come through who have been hit by cars; some make a full recovery, some are left with life-changing injuries.

“It’s heartbreaking because often it’s something as simple as obeying the road rules that will prevent these sorts of accidents.”

Dr Skinner said she sympathised with parents who faced the challenges of busy drop-off zones and crowded surrounding streets – but she urged them to make sure both they and their children are well equipped to deal with any scenario.

“Not every drop off system is perfect, and it’s important for parents to provide feedback to their school where they feel things could be improved,” Dr Skinner said.

“But it is up to us as parents to make sure you take the time to teach your kids road safety, not just on the way to and from school but even in the driveway.

“For primary school kids, walk with them and show them the crossings and warn them of the dangers roads can present,” she said.

For more information, visit safetytown.com.au