

Media Release
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Who gives way?

Do you know who should give way at a crossing point like the one pictured?



Many people don't know the right answer to this question.

The correct answer is: **pedestrians**.

A crossing point is an area that has been deemed by the Council as a safe place to cross the road. It has kerb extensions, and some also have a small traffic island in the middle of the road with a handrail. Pedestrians need to stop, look and listen before crossing the road, just like they do when crossing any other section of road, as vehicles have the right of way.

The only time that drivers should stop for pedestrians is: on pedestrian (zebra) crossings; on the "green man" at traffic lights; and at school road patrols when one or both STOP lollipops

are extended into the road.

“Vehicles often stop for me at crossing points when I’m out walking with my kids. I just wait and wave them on, and I let my kids know that cars are not supposed to stop, so they are learning too”, says Carolyn Bennison, Youth Road Safety Advisor for Selwyn District Council.

“Recently I was walking along Springs Road in Prebbleton when I saw a truck stop for a family to cross the road at the crossing point pictured. This was actually very dangerous as it was 5pm on a weekday and there were five cars behind the truck. The cars had very little warning that the truck was about to stop and this could have easily resulted in a crash”, Mrs Bennison said.

Mrs Bennison says that if a vehicle stops for them at a crossing point, pedestrians should wave them on.

Drivers should remember they have the right of way, but also be cautious when approaching crossing points due to the fact there is confusion about who gives way. However if we can all work together on this we can resolve this confusion and make the roads safer for everyone.

ENDS

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