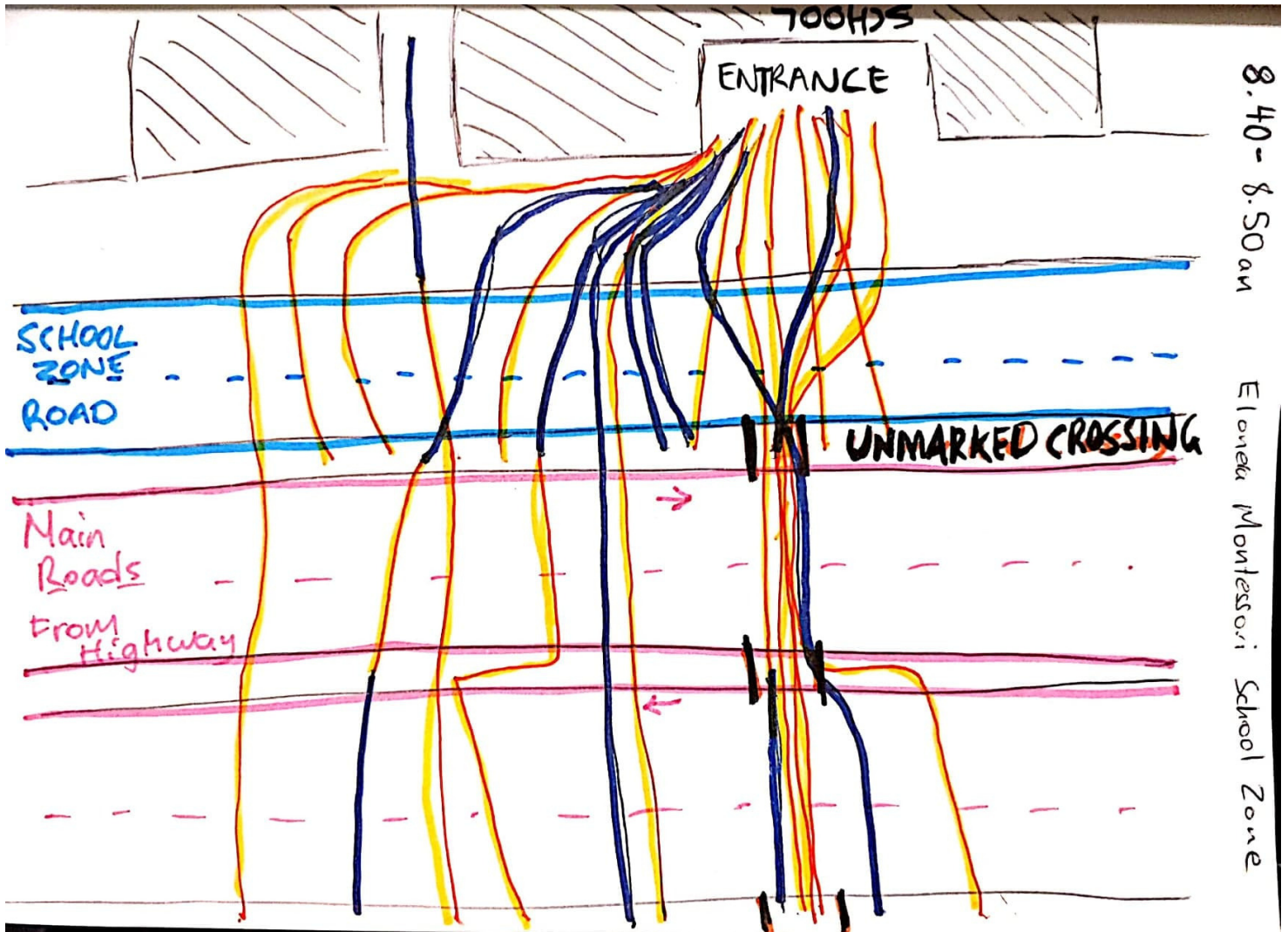


# APPENDIX:

## Observation:



## Constraints

- It required permission from school and I (Josh) was with my brothers who go to the school I got permission from. So we only had a 10 minute window so I just documented 20 kids who crossed the roads in that time period
- Was limited to only 1 set of observation this time round. In future would like to do it for longer and both at the beginning and end of school if permission is granted.
- This might be an inaccurate observation to be called the average as it only occurred one time, but still showed statistics that show Jaywalking occurs.

## Findings

- Out of 20 students observed only 4 didn't run across any of the 3 roads, to make across in time. This was seen especially along with main road marked in pink.
- There was only a small area that was actually meant for crossing (though it was unmarked), but it was not frequently used as student crossed closest to where they appeared on the other side.
- The 4 who did cross the road safely waited until there was a very large gap on all roads and walked safely across.

# INTERVIEWS

Interview 1: Parent - Natasha (Happy to answer further questions)

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are pedestrian safe?

Nope, I think that there is still a lot of confusion during times based on holidays. Normally the first few weeks of school people slip up and they speed in school zones. I feel there needs to be better signage that tells drivers hey school is back you need to obey the speed limits and watch for kids. I have also seen both jaywalking and unsafe drop-offs for me that is when kids are often picked up and dropped off in the driving lane obscuring views and causing some sudden stops. It does close your visibility but also puts the kids at a bit more of a risk.

Q2 - Do you believe that school zones should be monitored during peak times?

When there is a crossing officer it tends to be a lot safer she has observed. Parents and children take the crosswalk. Out of 4 schools zones, I go through only one of them has someone monitoring during pick up and drop off, that one has better visibility and overall less jaywalking students I believe as I see most taking the crossing.

Q3 - How do you think they could be improved?

In high-risk areas, they need to have people monitoring them, both for high school and primary school. But given the budget, I don't believe that can be implemented everywhere sadly.

They need more of the signs the flash and show speeds, but I do believe for many that would wear off eventually but having more would be helpful. Overall having some feedback through technology or people not sure how for behaviour in school zones would help people change their attitudes and be more aware.

For me, having a sudden change in environment, that could lead to getting a fine would be a great idea. Everyone knows where speed cameras are but even then in areas I know the cameras have been removed, I still double-check speed and make sure I am going at the right speed leading up to it. It is kind of a built-in response at this point.

Q4 - What do you think about visibility in school zones, with cars parked etc.

Visibility is lacking at a lot of the areas leading up to a crossing and where the kids are often moving, sadly only some effort is shown by some school and the council to make the area more visible not just at the crossing. Often there are lots of kids duck out really quickly, but I find one of the worst things are parents also walk across the road jaywalking or even alongside the cars on the roadside with little kids following them. It freaks me out cause little kids are very unpredictable. I personally wish that parents wouldn't do that as I get a heart attack from it.

Q5 - Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on with the trip too and from school?

I don't see it that often in the actual school zones but I do often see kids in their school uniforms after school near my work who are doing that and not paying a lot of attention on the road. I feel that maybe some of the kids do need to be better informed about the risks of the road as they can be young and brash. They can be very happy to jaywalk as some don't see the level of risk that can be associated with it

Interview 2: Parent - Lisa (Happy to hear more about it)

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are pedestrian safe?

Not all but some, personally I actually feel when I am driving through them, as I am aware of the reduced speed limit, I pay more attention to the speed than the children, it distracted from the children. If I wasn't constantly

Q2 - Do you know a way you could reduce your speed more naturally

You think about it a lot as a mum, you always think about how your children are out riding and walking etc and how they can be exposed to sudden dangers with cars around driveways and on roads. I feel cause I am a mum that I am scared of kids just appearing in the streets out of nowhere but I feel that others who don't have kids don't really consider it that much. In school zones or areas heavily populated by kids, I think having the flashing signs or other ways to notify drivers to have awareness going into that area would be good. I myself thought can sometimes go in with a fear of getting a speeding ticket, there is panic but about the speed that takes away from my need to look around but more makes me look at the speedometer. So I would like a more mindful way of notifying drivers to slow down but keep their eyes on the road.

Other people have told me a lot in the past about how they are more concerned with their speed then checking at points in school zones too.

Q3 - Do you believe that school zones should be monitored during peak times?

Possibly, I am not sure if there are huge improvements. I presume that it would lead to more safety though. Personally out the front of the school parking is becoming a huge problem and safety is becoming a problem because of that.

People park really early around the school as there is a growing number of kids at the school so a lot of the areas fill up so no one else can really safely pick up and drop their kids off within the school zone strip. So, in the end, they let their kids cross the non-school zone strip. The school newsletter is stating that children who cross Mt Ousley (a very busy road with a lot of fast cars right parallel to the school zone with only a narrow street long pedestrian island between the two roads alone) should be accompanied by adults. But often if the parents have younger kids or babies in the car, just kind of telling their kids to go alone, or if they are late to work or in a rush. I often find the islands in the middle of the road encourage jaywalking for students if it is an available route for kids. I think maybe have a specialised pedestrian crossing with the ability to detect the number of students would be great as you cannot easily stop the flow of traffic on major roads but maybe you can if enough people need to cross rather than just one or two kids.

Q4 - What do you think about visibility in school zones, with cars parked etc.

You cannot really see the kids well with all the parked cars, so I tell my kids, if you are sitting in a car in the driver's seat you cannot always see kids jump out. Just cause you can see them they cannot see you.

Q5 - Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on with the trip too and from school?

Absolutely, my child used to always read a book and not pay attention to driveways, I had to confront her about it. But in this day and age, I see a lot of kids are looking down at devices not checking their environment or hear the sounds around them. I think this really does need to be addressed but it would be hard. I see it as a huge problem but for both kids and parents, as the kids often engage in their phone to arranging pickups with parents or talk to friends.



Interview 3: Eunice (20 years old, Female, Day care worker)

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are pedestrian safe?

From my personal experience it really just depends on the locations and the density of the cars nearby. When the school is within the vicinity of a backstreet, yes. But when it's directly adjacent to highways, no. That's just cause of the fact that there are so many cars near highways that it becomes really hard to cross and kids are often distracted by phones and games and what not.

Q2 - Do you know a way you could reduce your speed more naturally

Having police or traffic control presence in the area tend to slow people down. I guess, when it comes to drivers, they're more concerned with themselves and getting in trouble rather than kids and pedestrians and the overall safety of the public. Not saying they don't care about the kids but I think once you've driven for so long without incidents people become too confident in regards to safety but still cautious of getting in trouble as that can happen really easily.

Q3 - Do you believe that school zones should be monitored during peak times?

Although I don't believe in over policing, to a degree, there should be more monitoring. Like I said before, having a traffic control presence of some sort does tend to make drivers slow down and pay attention. It's also very good for watching the children as they can be quite unpredictable. However that would require a lot of labour and people so maybe this can be done robotically or in the form of cameras?

Q4 - What do you think about visibility in school zones, with cars parked etc.

With so many cars parked, it can be difficult for people to see small children approaching. Especially since I also work in daycares where the kids can be really small so even parking areas can make it difficult to spot children.

Q5 - Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on with the trip too and from school?

Sometimes you see a it quite a bit, especially with messaging. They often get quite distracted at times, by their phone and it can be for the most nonsensical reasons such as seeing a cat or reenacting a scene from a cartoon and what not. They are funny to observe but it can be worrying how caught up in it they can be.

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are safe when you cross the road?

Well for my school, my mum always told me to be careful when crossing the main road to and from school and to always pay attention even when you are out the front of the school for cars. Recently someone I knew, was hit outside of my school and it was in the newsletter. He is ok, but I think that shows it is unsafe.

Q2 - Do you jaywalk or partake in what might be called a dangerous crossing sometimes?

Sometimes I jaywalk, when there is little traffic as there is no crossing right out the front of the school. In that case I was told it was ok as long as I always check. But I try to be safe. Some of the older students run across the road laughing but I think it is stupid and unsafe.

Q3 - When you friends cross the road - are they paying attention or talking?

Most the time they are running as a group laughing, but I am not sure if they are paying attention or not. I just know they wait for the teachers who come out the front of the school are not looking.

Q4 - Do you find waiting at the traffic lights boring?

Yes, when I am by myself. Because of the main road it takes a really long time, also the walk from my school to the lights crossing takes about 5 minutes as it is really far. Most people are not bothered walking all the way.

Q5 - Can you think of anything you would like out the front of the school for a crossing or to make it safer?

More crossing, closer to the school zone, I think that would help. Less people would have to run across or walk a long way then. Also, when I ride my bike to school, there is no spot I can cross safely as the main road has a really small spot in the middle, that is kind of scary when you stand in the middle of it with a bike. You can only fit me and one friend when crossing with a bike.

Q6 - Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on with the trip too and from school?

Yeah, I do it sometimes too. I listen to music when I walk sometimes but never when I ride. I try to pay attention to all the roads but. Some of my friends play their nintendo switches or phones when walking to school together or to the bus. It is a big thing now.

Interview 5: Michelle (Parent and on a school board)

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are pedestrian safe?

No, well not in the case of the school I volunteer my time at. The school zones lacks any method of slowing down cars minus the signs at the beginning and end along with the markings on the road. My biggest issue is that we have one section that comes from a semi blind corner when people are parked. Often cars will try their luck and half speed around it regardless of it being a school zone. Though no one has been hit, I am worried about some of the kids who attempt crossing the road down that end, especially around the start of school terms where kids don't seem to cross as safely and drivers are unaware of school starting again.

Also, our school zone is close to an industrial zone, so we get a lot of traffic, that can contain large trucks on one of the roads that goes alongside the school. Though in the last few years they have put in multiple lights in attempts to reduce the consistent traffic and slow down on-coming vehicles within and leading up to the school zone.

Q2 - Do you know a way you could reduce speed more effectively?

We definitely require the crossing to be more... distinctive, along with having potentially a method to fine traffic that is travelling too fast near it. I personally wish they had a slower speed in this school zone due to the traffic and the blind corner, but we are the same as all school zones in NSW.

Q3 - In regards to nearby crossings, do you see kids actively taking them, or is jaywalking common?

Not many kids jaywalk in my area as there is frequent reminders at the end of class days about being safe near the road and take the lights when crossing the road even in a rush. Funnily enough, but sometimes I see parents running across the road to pick up their kids and that often makes me thankful we put so much effort in announcing safe walking announcements before they leave, because it would be bad if they copied.

Q5 - Lastly, due to time. Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on with the trip too and from school?

Yes, now this is one we are still trying to crack down on, but some of the kids travel from almost 40 minutes to an hour away. So those kids will almost always be engaged in their phone walking from the bus stop about a road away. I can imagine it would be quite boring travelling all that way. Wearing headphones is quite common too, even if it is just one in one ear but the other open to listen. Not sure how effective that is at being aware of their surroundings when they are also talking to someone. Overall though, from what I have seen they are not too bad. Though we have also tried to make them aware of walking with headphones. Majority of these kids are in highschool at least, whereas most of the primary school kids (Note: the school is for both primary & secondary) get picked up by their parents in our parking area or out the front of the school, or have a parent accompany them.

Interview 6: Jacob (17 years old, male, year 12)

Q1 - Do you believe that school zones are safe when you cross the road?

Yeah not really actually. In my school is near a highway and nearby and my school is in between two main roads that lead to the highway. So the buses are usually coming and going. They're kinda big and it's hard to see past them. There's even been car crashes because people can see past some of the cars. I think there's also been a few car crashes.

Q2 - Do you jaywalk or partake in what might be called a dangerous crossing sometimes?

Yeah I jaywalk a lot because it's so much more easier. I'll pretty much jaywalk whenever I don't see cars. I guess it's not the safest idea.

Q3 - When you friends cross the road - are they paying attention or talking?

For me, whenever I cross, I only really pay attention the moment my foot touches the road, it's like two to three seconds of me paying attention depending on what I notice in that two to three seconds.

Q4 - Do you find waiting at the traffic lights boring?

Yeah I never really wait for them, if I'm given the chance I'll just cross. Unless I'm too tired or if I'm playing on my phone or occupied.

Q5 - Can you think of anything you would like out the front of the school for a crossing or to make it safer?

I don't know, maybe reflective mirrors, fences, more pedestrian crossings? Maybe if there was a way to make people cross when they're supposed to, like a gate or a sign.

Q6 - Do you see kids often engaged in their phones or with headphones not paying attention on the trip to and from school?

Yeah, especially with the new airpods it gets really hard to hear cars which is really dangerous but I don't think anyones gonna really take out their airpods. So yeah a lot of people get distracted

# AFFINITY DIAGRAM

