

# Sunshine Advocate

## The crossing of death, Jeffrey Byrne, Aged 5

Sunshine Advocate 30th May 1973 Page 2

# THE CROSSING OF DEATH

A SPECIAL REPORT BY TONY JENNER

**THE ACCIDENT happened at about 8.30 pm. on Monday, March 19. . .**

Five-year-old Jeffrey Byrne was hit by a car outside the Sunshine Youth Centre.

**Jeffrey died on April 7.**

And on May 7 the first steps were taken by Sunshine Council to have pedestrian operated signals installed adjacent to the centre, which is in Churchill Ave., Braybrook.

But, it is a safe bet that it will take about 12 months or more before the lights are actually installed - if at all.

There are many intersections in Sunshine and of course in other suburbs which need traffic lights.

### PROCEDURES

What are the procedures involved in getting traffic lights installed at a dangerous intersection or crossing?

Well, people complain to their local council and request lights at a particular location.

The council considers the request on its merits. It can do one of two things - scrub the request, or agree that lights are needed.

If council agrees, it then carries out a traffic volume count. This takes 12 hours.

The results and a plan of the location are submitted to the Road Safety and Traffic Authority for its "comments" and approval.

On average, it takes six to twelve months before a final decision comes from the authority.

Experience has shown that although the authority can grant approval for the installation of signals, a considerable amount of time elapses before a subsidy is granted and the work begun.

### UNSUCCESSFUL

The authority gives subsidies of one third for ordinary roads and two thirds for State roads.

There was a move in Sunshine Council some time ago to have lights installed at council expense, and to accept the authority subsidy when it eventually came through. The move was not successful.

And regarding the Sunshine Youth Centre request, the word is that the application will be unsuccessful—death or no death.

### MORE DANGER

It seems there are other, more dangerous locations which will have priority.

In the meantime, various measures will be taken to make the area safer for pedestrians.

These include a sign bearing the legend "Danger, Children Crossing, other signs prohibiting parking, and additional street lighting.

**FOOTNOTE:** Patrick and Margaret Byrne, of Hargreaves Cres., Braybrook, wish to express their thanks to those people from Sunshine Youth Centre who helped their son, Jeffrey, 5, after he was hit by a car outside the centre on March 19.

