

Lord Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Tiffany, and I am here representing the families of Terry Simpson Studios — a dance school that has operated at the top of Gays Arcade for over 30 years. It is a long-standing and respected part of the city's cultural community.

The studio entrance is through a secure door on Twin Street. Once Gays Arcade closes in the evening, that Twin Street door becomes the only entry and exit point for students and parents. There is no alternative access.

Classes run every weekday evening and throughout the day on Saturdays. Pick-up times are typically between 6pm and 9pm.

And this is where the problem lies.

Due to the current line markings and parking design on Twin Street, parents cannot lawfully stop for two to ten minutes to safely collect their children. There is no short-term pick-up provision. No practical allowance. No recognition of the way the space is actually used by the community.

The painted lines on the road make it unlawful for us to do what any responsible parent would do — pull up, remain in our vehicle, and ensure our child gets safely from the studio door into the car.

Twin Street is not a street where I feel safe waiting alone at night. It is certainly not a place where children should be expected to stand on the footpath waiting while parents circle the block looking for compliant parking elsewhere.

Recently, I was fined \$118 for sitting in my car at 7:30pm waiting for my 12-year-old daughter. I was not obstructing traffic. I was not abandoning my vehicle. I was doing what parents do — keeping my child safe.

While that amount may appear minor in the scope of Council revenue, it is not minor to me. I collect my daughter from Twin Street four times a week. One fine is \$118, Four fines well you can do the math. That is more than three and a half hours of my work for a single infringement that arose purely because there is no lawful way to prioritise my child's safety under the current markings.

And I know I am not alone. Multiple families from the studio have been fined under similar circumstances.

Two weeks ago, Council had the opportunity to begin addressing broader parking reform across the CBD. That decision was deferred. I watched the first part of that meeting online, and from a community perspective it was difficult not to feel that political considerations and individual priorities were taking precedence over the practical needs of ordinary working families.

I say this respectfully — but honestly.

Because when a council knowingly maintains a street design that leaves children standing on a dimly lit street at night waiting to be collected, simply because their parents have no lawful place to stop, that is something that should give every member of this council pause.

And if that situation continues — then frankly, it is something this council should feel ashamed of.

The solution is not complicated. Twin Street needs appropriate short-term, after-hours pick-up provisions that reflect its real and longstanding use. Painted lines should serve the community — not penalise it for behaving responsibly.

I will be honest : at present, I do not feel confident that council fully understands the urgency of this issue, and I fear that poorly considered changes could make access even harder.

My \$118 fine may seem insignificant in the broader context of council budgets. But to my family — and to the many families of Terry Simpson Studios — it represents something much larger: the feeling that doing the responsible thing has been punished.

We are not asking for special treatment.

We are asking for safe, lawful access to collect our children.

Twin Street has supported a dance school that has enriched Adelaide's cultural life for over three decades. The least we can expect in return is a street design that recognises and protects the children who use it every day.

Thank you for your time.