



Traffic conditions around Forrest Primary School during pick up time.

Picture: Elesia Lee

Can't see Forrest for the cars

By Joni Scanlon

CHANGES will be made to parking zones surrounding Forrest Primary School after parking has become virtually impossible during peak school times.

One grandmother who regularly collects her grandchildren from the school contacted *The Chronicle* about the current parking conditions, but wished to remain anonymous.

She claimed public servants were taking all the parking around the school early in the morning and it was becoming impossible for parents and carers to park near the school.

"It's hopeless in the afternoon," she said. "All the other parents have been complaining about the same thing."

The grandmother said she often had to park almost a

kilometre from the school and walk her grandchildren across multiple roads to get back to the car.

The parking problems has been exacerbated since Deakin Preschool classes were temporarily located to Forrest Primary School at the beginning of the year. Deakin Preschool is undergoing extensive refurbishment.

"They're there as well, taking on extra car spots," the grandmother said.

A spokeswoman for Territory and Municipal Services confirmed Roads ACT was working with Forrest Primary School and their Parents and Citizens Association in relation to parking in Forrest.

During morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times a 30 minute parking restriction would

be implemented on Hobart avenue next to the school.

Signage associated with the children's crossing would also be reviewed and improved and Roads ACT would continue to work with Forrest Primary School to improve road safety.

"In relation to parking in Forrest more broadly, Roads ACT proposes implementing further parking restrictions in the area to relieve parking pressure and will consult with affected residents on this proposal in the coming weeks," the spokeswoman said.

On the school's website there is a list of rules the Parents and Citizens Association has developed to deal with the traffic within the school grounds.

Between 8.45am-9.10am and 2.55pm-3.15pm parents and

teachers are advised there is to be no car movement in or out of the parking spaces in the long line directly in front of the school to "minimise the risk of cars reversing into students or other cars".

The rules also warn parents not to park or wait in pick-up zones, and said they would be asked to move if they park on the verges, inside the school driveway or in no-parking zones.

The Forrest Primary School principal was unavailable to comment, but a spokeswoman from the ACT Education and Training Directorate confirmed it was aware of the issue.

The spokeswoman advised parents to refer to the Education and Training Directorate's Starting School guide that provides advice on road safety. It is available on the Directorate's website www.det.act.gov.au