



Department of  
Transport



# Drive Safe

A handbook for Western Australian road users

# **A Message from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Transport**

This handbook is a comprehensive guide to the road rules that apply in Western Australia.

It is written in an easy to understand format and designed primarily to help new drivers prepare for a lifetime of safe driving. If you are a new driver, this book contains the information you will need to obtain your learner's permit.

The laws explained in this book are the major ones that are contained in the *Road Traffic Code 2000* and *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*. However, drivers should be familiar with all traffic laws and a copy of the relevant rules and regulations can be viewed on the internet at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au) or purchased from the State Law Publisher.

To earn your driver's licence will require a great deal of effort and most importantly, many hours of practical experience driving with a supervisor.

Those who have already obtained their licence will still need to refer to this handbook regularly and to the *Road Traffic Code 2000* to ensure that their understanding of the road rules is up to date.

While a good knowledge of traffic laws will help you drive more safely, research shows that human behaviour is a factor in over 90 percent of road crashes, so it is important that the theoretical knowledge of the correct use of our roads is translated into responsible and careful driving. The big killers continue to be speeding, drinking and driving, failing to wear a seat belt and driving when tired.

Please take the time to learn the detailed information in this handbook, refer to it regularly and put into practice the safe driving behaviour that is the responsibility of us all.

**Chief Executive Officer  
Department of Transport**

# A Handbook for Western Australian Road Users

This handbook is a guide to safe driving and an interpretation of the law.

It is **NOT** the law, but a simplified version of the road law as defined in the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008*, including the Australian Road Rules that apply currently in Western Australia. It does not include all the traffic regulations and is not intended to be used as a legal document.

More information can be obtained online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs)

## Available online

This handbook can also be downloaded from our website.

Visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) for the locations of our Driver and Vehicle Services centres, regional DoT centres and agents.

**Unless otherwise stated, Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centres are open MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.15am to 4.30pm (excluding public holidays).**

Computerised Theory Tests (CTT) and Hazard Perception Tests (HPT) must be commenced before 3.45pm at Department of Transport centres.

You may be eligible to book your Practical Driving Test (PDA) online by visiting [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au), alternatively you can phone 13 11 56 to make an appointment.

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# PART 1

## Safe Driving

## 1.1 The High Cost of Road Trauma

Every death on our roads is a major tragedy causing enormous emotional pain and grief to family and friends. Even more distressing is the fact that many of those killed are young people. Statistics show that road users between 17 and 24 years of age make up just 15 per cent of the Australian population, but they account for around one-third of road deaths. In Western Australia, 20 per cent of drivers killed in road crashes are under 20 years of age, but this age group represents only six per cent of all drivers.

*The major contributions to serious road trauma are speeding, alcohol, driving when tired and the non-use of restraints.* All these factors are within the control of the driver, which means that almost all road deaths and serious injuries can be prevented.

Research also tells us that lack of driving experience is a major factor in crashes involving young people. That is why the process for obtaining a driving licence has such a focus on practical experience. New drivers now spend more time driving under supervision and twice as long driving with the restricted requirements of 'P' plates than previously. They also have to successfully complete a Hazard Perception Test.

The loss of life and the cost to the community are unnecessary burdens that can be reduced with greater care and more responsible behaviour by all drivers, both young and old.

## 1.2 Speed

Speeding increases the risk of being involved in a crash and of being seriously injured or killed. Speeding is **not** just driving faster than the speed limit; it is also driving too fast to suit the road, traffic, visibility or the weather conditions.

It is against the law to drive above the posted speed limit. If you are caught speeding you will be fined and you may accumulate demerit points. *If you have a provisional licence, you could have your licence cancelled.*

Under the 'Anti-Hoon' legislation people caught travelling at 45km/h or more above the posted speed limit can be charged with reckless driving, resulting in licence suspension or even cancellation. They can also have their vehicles impounded or confiscated, if they are racing or doing 'burnouts'.

### 1.2.1 Why is it more dangerous to drive fast?

It is more dangerous to drive fast because:

- injuries are more severe at high speed;
- you are more likely to be killed or kill someone else;
- it is harder to control a vehicle that is travelling at high speed;
- you have less time to react to hazards; and
- other drivers have less time to avoid a collision with you.

*Always travel at a speed that allows you to anticipate and react safely to sudden dangerous situations that can occur on the road.*

### 1.2.2 Choosing what speed to travel

A speed limit is the maximum legal speed at which you can travel on a road under ideal conditions. You must adjust your speed to suit the conditions and remember never drive faster than the speed limit. The speed limit can be shown on signs or be the limit that applies to 'built-up' areas or the State's maximum speed limit depending on where you are driving.

As a basic guide, you should drive slower when:

#### ■ The road is busy



If there are parked cars ahead, there is a chance that drivers may open their doors or pull out suddenly. People may also step out from between parked cars.

If the traffic control signal ahead of you is green, it may turn yellow or red by the time you get there, and you must be able to stop safely.

■ **Road conditions are poor**



Be careful if there are potholes in the road. It is always wise to slow down when there is loose gravel or sand on the road, particularly at bends.

If road works are being carried out, slow down and do not exceed speed limits that are displayed on signs.

■ **Visibility is poor**



Slow down if you cannot see clearly because of rain, fog, smoke, bad light, dazzling lights or the sun shining in your eyes.

■ **There are pedestrians and cyclists around**



Pay attention when you see cyclists and pedestrians, especially near shopping centres or schools.

Pedestrians may forget to look before they cross the road.

Give cyclists more space – don't 'squeeze' them off the road.

Your speed helps determine how much time you have to react safely to a particular situation. The higher your speed, the less time you have to spot the hazard and react to it.

## 1.3 Alcohol and Drugs

If you drive after drinking alcohol or taking other drugs you are more likely to be involved in a crash. Alcohol or drugs by themselves are dangerous but the combined effect can be deadly. Enforcement of drink and drug driving saves lives.

Remember that every police vehicle can undertake both roadside drug and drink driving tests and the probability that you will be randomly breath or saliva tested is high.

Your driver's licence is a valuable privilege.

Don't risk your licence, your life, or the lives of others by driving after you have consumed alcohol and/or taken any drugs that may affect your driving.

***IT IS NOW AN OFFENCE TO DRIVE OR ATTEMPT TO DRIVE WHILE IMPAIRED BY DRUGS.***

### 1.3.1 The effects of alcohol on driving

Alcohol is absorbed quickly into the blood and travels rapidly to all parts of the body. It affects your brain's ability to make judgements and process information. It also impairs your consciousness and vision.

No amount of coffee or soft drink will sober you up – only time can do that.

If you drink alcohol and drive, you will find it difficult to:

- judge the speed of your vehicle;
- judge the distance between your car and other cars;
- notice traffic control signals, pedestrians and other potential hazards;
- concentrate on the task of driving;
- keep your balance, especially on a motorcycle (or on a bicycle, or as a pedestrian); and
- stay awake when you are driving.

Alcohol also gives you a false sense of confidence. You may take more risks than you would normally – but remember, alcohol slows down your reaction time to road hazards.

### 1.3.2 Blood alcohol concentration (BAC)

Blood alcohol concentration is the quantity of alcohol in the body. It is measured by the weight in grams of alcohol present in 100 millilitres of blood. A person's BAC can be determined by analysing a blood, breath or urine sample.

*As soon as you start drinking, your BAC begins to rise and could take up to two hours to reach its highest concentration, especially if you have eaten a substantial meal at the same time. Even though you may not have had a drink for an hour or more, your BAC may still be rising.*

### 1.3.3 What is the legal limit?

The amount of alcohol you are allowed to have in your body when you are driving will depend upon the type of vehicle(s) you are authorised to drive and the current status of your licence.

The following information sets out the various BAC limits and when they apply. Refer to Appendix 3 for details of drink driving penalties. Drivers and riders should be aware these penalties may change from time to time.

**Important: All novice drivers are subject to a zero blood alcohol limit.**

**Supervising drivers are subject to blood alcohol content levels and a prohibition on illicit drugs in their system when supervising a learner driver. These are the same requirements that apply to the supervisor if they were driving the vehicle.**

- novice drivers;
- taxi drivers\*;
- drivers of passenger vehicles with capacity to carry more than 12 adult passengers\*;
- drivers of omnibuses\*;
- drivers of certain heavy vehicles\*;
- drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods\*;
- extraordinary licence holders; and
- recently disqualified drivers;

*\*The zero BAC limit for certain drivers may not apply at all times. Please visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) for further information on when a driver must have a BAC limit of zero.*

#### 0.02 BAC applies to:

- Drivers who hold a provisional licence that are no longer Novice Drivers.

#### 0.05 BAC applies to:

- All other drivers.

### 1.3.4 How much alcohol takes you over the legal limit?

#### 0.00 per cent BAC

You must not drink any alcoholic drinks at all if you intend to drive

#### 0.02 per cent BAC

To be sure that you do not reach 0.02 per cent, you should not drink any alcoholic drinks at all when you intend to drive.

#### 0.05 per cent BAC

BAC levels vary from person to person. The amount of alcohol you can consume before reaching the legal limit depends on factors such as:

- **your size and fitness level.** If you are unfit or of small build, it may take you less than the standard number of drinks to exceed the legal limit;
- **your gender.** Alcohol is soluble in water. Men's bodies generally have a higher proportion of water than women's. Therefore, consuming the same amount of alcohol will usually cause a higher BAC in a woman than a man of a similar size;
- **the amount of alcohol still in your blood from drinking the night before or earlier in the day.** If you still have traces of alcohol in your blood, your BAC will be higher than normal after one standard drink; and
- **the amount of food in your stomach.** Food slows down the absorption of alcohol. If you have not eaten a substantial meal before drinking alcohol, your BAC may reach the legal limit more quickly than if you have had something substantial to eat.

**Spirits** (37-43% alc/vol)

 = 1 Standard drink per 30ml

**Wine** (10-14% alc/vol)

 = 1 Standard drink per 100ml (7.5 per bottle)

**Pre-mixed drinks** (5% alc/vol)

 = 1.2 Standard drink per 300ml

 = 1.5 Standard drink per 375ml

**Mid-strength beer** (3-4% alc/vol)

 = 0.8 Standard drink per 285ml

 = 1 Standard drink per 375ml

**Full strength beer** (4-6% alc/vol)

 = 1.5 Standard drink per 375ml

 = 1 Standard drink per 285ml

**Don't drink and drive.**

#### What is a Standard Drink?

**Any drink containing 10 grams of alcohol is called a standard drink.**

One standard drink will raise an average person's BAC by about 0.01 per cent (grams of alcohol per 100ml of blood), depending upon the factors mentioned.

A measurement of 0.05 per cent BAC means that your body contains 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

The Department of Health advises that to stay below 0.05 per cent BAC:

- an average sized, healthy woman should have no more than one standard drink in the first hour of drinking and then no more than one standard drink per hour after that; and
- an average sized, healthy man should have no more than two standard drinks in the first hour of drinking, then no more than one standard drink per hour after that.

### 1.3.5 How long does alcohol stay in your body?

The body breaks down alcohol very slowly. ***A healthy person will take about one hour to get rid of the alcohol from one standard drink.*** So, if you have four standard drinks in an hour, it will take about four hours to get it all out of your system.

Remember, no amount of coffee or soft drink will speed up the breakdown of alcohol in your body.

To ensure you stay below 0.05 per cent BAC, limit your drinking to one standard alcoholic drink per hour. The Department of Health recommends that, for the sake of your health, you should limit your alcohol intake to four standard drinks a day if you are a man and two standard drinks a day if you are a woman.

Always follow these three rules when drinking alcohol:

- limit yourself to one standard drink per hour;
- drink plenty of water and other non-alcoholic drinks; and
- eat something substantial while drinking.

### 1.3.6 Effect of alcohol and other drugs on driving

Many prescribed and non-prescribed drugs and medicines can seriously affect your driving ability. Drugs such as sedatives or tranquillisers may impair your concentration, make you drowsy and slow down your reaction time. Medications for the common cold or travel sickness can have the same effect. These side effects may last several hours. If you are taking any drugs or medications, check with your doctor or chemist about the effect they may have on your driving ability.

Never combine alcohol and drugs.

The effects of alcohol and drugs vary and can become much stronger when they are used in combination. This can be very dangerous and even deadly.

### 1.3.7 Random roadside drug and alcohol testing

Drink and drug driving is a major contributor to road fatalities in Western Australia. Many drivers appear unaware of the effects that alcohol and drugs can have on their alertness, vigilance and ability to react rapidly to unexpected road hazards. Some drugs can also increase the impairing effects of alcohol and fatigue.

Police may stop motorists and require them to take a random drug or alcohol test to detect the presence of prescribed illicit drugs or alcohol. It is a serious offence to refuse a random breath test, or a request to give a saliva sample for drug testing.

### 1.3.8 What to do if you want to drink

Don't drink and then drive. If you want to drink, plan ahead. Your options include:

- arranging a lift with a friend who isn't drinking;
- arranging to stay the night after a party;
- hiring a minibus, if it is for a group;
- appointing a skipper;
- using public transport;
- phoning someone to come and collect you; or
- taking a taxi.

*One way to avoid drinking too much alcohol is to alternate your alcoholic drinks with water, non-alcoholic or low alcohol drinks.*

Do not get involved in 'shouts' requiring you to buy rounds of drinks.

Don't drive with a BAC greater than the legal limit. In doing so, you face an increased risk that you will:

- lose your life or cause others to lose their lives;
- injure yourself or someone else;
- be charged by the police;
- lose your licence;
- be fined or imprisoned;
- have your vehicle confiscated; or
- damage your car or someone else's property.

**If you have a crash while you are over the BAC level, or you are impaired by drugs, you will not be covered by insurance.**

## 1.4 Seat Belts

Seat belts save lives. **Always wear one!**

### 1.4.1 How do seat belts work in a crash?

There are two types of collision in any road crash:



- The **car collision** is the first collision. The car hits something and then comes to a stop. The part of the vehicle that receives the first impact of the collision stops immediately. In most cases, the engine bay or the boot absorbs some of the impact. The driver/passenger compartment sometimes remains comparatively undamaged.



- The **human collision** is the second and more dangerous collision. In this collision, occupants are thrown about inside the car, or even out of the car.

If you are not restrained by a seat belt, you will keep moving inside the car if it comes to a sudden stop.

If you are travelling at 100 km/h on impact, your body will still be moving at that speed after the collision.

If you are not wearing a seat belt, you will hit some part of the car or the other people in the car. The higher the speed, the greater the force with which you will be thrown around inside the car or out of the car.

**It is the human collision that injures and kills people.**

***Seat belts can help prevent injury and death.***

### 1.4.2 Why you should wear a seat belt

**Seat belts prevent the human collision.**

Wearing a seat belt will protect you from being thrown about in the driver/passenger compartment – hitting parts of the car, other occupants or being thrown from the vehicle.

### **Good drivers have crashes too.**

Although some people are safer drivers than others, all drivers run the risk of being involved in a crash. People who drink, drive fast, are tired, discourteous or inexperienced, have a higher risk of having a crash. You never know when you may encounter a dangerous or careless driver – so don't take a chance, always wear your seat belt.

### **People are rarely trapped because of seat belts.**

Some people are afraid that they will be trapped in the car if they are wearing a seat belt and their car catches fire or falls into water after a crash. Statistics show that it is very rare for this to happen. Wearing a seat belt will increase your chances of being alive and conscious after a crash so that you can escape from the fire or water.

### **Seat belts save us money.**

We all pay the costs of hospital and medical treatment, legal costs, invalid pensions and higher insurance rates in one way or another. Preventing injuries to yourself and to others by wearing a seat belt is in everyone's best interest.

#### **1.4.3 Who does not have to wear a seat belt?**

Legally, you do not have to wear a seat belt if you are:

- the driver of a vehicle travelling in reverse;
- in possession of a current medical certificate authorising exemption;
- doing work which requires getting in and out of the vehicle frequently, and the vehicle does not travel faster than 25 km/h;
- under the age of 12 months and in a taxi, if there is no suitable child restraint available; or
- a taxi driver carrying passengers after dark.

#### **1.4.4 Who must wear a seat belt?**

***The driver and each passenger must be appropriately restrained and in a seated position in the vehicle.***

Seat belts are designed to be used by only one person at a time. 'Doubling up' – fastening a seat belt around two people – is both illegal and unsafe.

### **Seat belts work just as well in the back seat.**

You must wear a seat belt when sitting in the back seat. If you don't and the vehicle you are travelling in is involved in a crash, you may hit some part of the vehicle or other people in the car.

### **Seat belts must be worn on short, as well as long trips.**

Many crashes occur within a close distance to the driver's home. Even if you are just going to the local shops, you must wear your seat belt.

### **Seat belts must be worn by pregnant women.**

Seat belts must be worn by pregnant women unless they have a current medical certificate exempting them from this requirement. A seat belt worn correctly across the hips (below the baby) is unlikely to cut into the unborn child. The baby is much more likely to be injured in a crash if the mother is not wearing a seat belt.

### **Child car restraint law - children need protection too.**

Children and babies who are not restrained can be injured when the driver has to brake hard. An adult's lap is not safe enough for a child when there is a crash. Even if the child is small, an adult will not be able to hold onto the child in the event of a crash.

Western Australia has introduced national child car restraint laws to keep children safe and protect them in vehicles. Traffic penalties and fines will apply to the driver of the vehicle if children are not restrained in accordance with child car restraint laws.

Child car restraint laws will affect you if you are carrying passengers under the age of 7 years. Children under 7 years of age must wear a suitable child restraint. Child car restraint laws also specify where children are permitted to sit in a vehicle.

- A vehicle which has two or more rows of seats, children aged under 4 must be seated in the rear seats of the vehicle.
- Children 4 to less than 7 years old are not permitted in the front seats of a vehicle, unless all rear seats are occupied by children less than 7 years of age.
- Children aged 7 years and over can sit in any seating position provided they are suitably restrained.

#### **■ 0 - 6 months**



It is mandatory from birth until the child reaches 6 months to use a rearward-facing child restraint, and be seated in the rear seats in the vehicle at all times.

■ **6 months – 4 years**



Children aged 6 months and less than 4 years must use either a rearward facing restraint or a forward-facing child restraint that has an inbuilt harness.

Children up to age 4 must sit not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats.

■ **4 to 6 years**



Children aged 4 and less than 7 years must be restrained in a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness or in a booster seat restrained by either a seatbelt or child harness. Children aged 4 and less than 7 years will not be permitted in the front seat of a vehicle unless all rear seats are occupied by children less than 7 years of age.

If there is a passenger airbag in the front seating position occupied by a child, it is recommended that the seat is moved as far back as possible while still allowing correct restraint and seat belt fit. Children who are outside weight/size guidelines for existing restraints will be able to use the restraint type for the next age group. Before you purchase or install a child restraint, you must ensure it complies with Australian Standards.

Further information on child restraint laws, including exemptions from these laws can be located online at [www.childcarrestraints.com.au](http://www.childcarrestraints.com.au) or by phoning the RoadWise Child Restraint Information Line on 1300 780 713.

## **Never ride in the back of a utility, panel van or station wagon.**

It is illegal to ride in the back of a utility or other 'open load' space. If you are travelling in the open load space of a utility or in the back of a panel van or station wagon you face a greater risk of serious injury or death, particularly if there is a crash or if you fall out of the vehicle. Carrying passengers in the tray of a utility, truck or other vehicle that is fitted with an approved roll-over protection device has not been legally permitted since 31 December 2005. And it is illegal to carry any passengers in the tray of utilities or open load space of any vehicle, even if it has a roll-over protection device fitted.



### **1.4.5 What if your passengers do not wear a seat belt?**

Under the *Road Traffic Code 2000* the driver must ensure that each passenger in or on the vehicle who has reached the age of 16 years complies with regulations. Drivers are legally responsible for ensuring that children up to the age of 16 are suitably restrained in a vehicle. If a child under the age of 7 years is a passenger in your vehicle you are responsible for ensuring the child is wearing a suitable child restraint and the restraint is properly adjusted and securely fastened.

Only passengers that are sitting in a seat that is fitted with a seat belt or child restraint suitably fastened can be carried in the vehicle. Some exceptions do apply for passengers aged 7 years and over where the vehicle is not required by law to have seatbelts fitted.

No additional unrestrained passengers are permitted and passengers can not share the same seat or seatbelt.

The legislation can be viewed online at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au) or purchased from the State Law publisher.

### **1.4.6 What is the correct way to wear a seat belt?**

A seat belt is legally required to be properly adjusted and securely fastened. Your seat belt should be tight but comfortable. The buckle should be at your side and there should be no twists or knots in the straps. Properly working retractable seat belts will self-adjust.

### **1.4.7 What should I do if my seat belt is in poor condition?**

It is illegal and unsafe to have a worn, frayed, faded or damaged seat belt. You must have it replaced.

## 1.5 Driver Fatigue

Driver fatigue (driving when you are tired) is a major road safety hazard. Fatigue related crashes tend to be severe because sleepy drivers don't take evasive action. The risk of serious injury to a driver, passengers or the occupants of other vehicles in this type of crash is very high.

### 1.5.1 What is driver fatigue?

Fatigue is a common term that refers to mental and physical tiredness. Fatigue causes loss of alertness, drowsiness, poor judgement, slower reactions, reduced driving skill and may cause you to fall asleep at the wheel.

If you are a driver and you become drowsy, you can drift into 'micro-sleep', which is a brief nap that lasts for around three to five seconds. At 100km per hour your vehicle can travel over 100 metres in that time, which is enough time for it to run off the road into a tree, another vehicle or a pedestrian.

### 1.5.2 The main causes of fatigue

#### Body Clock Factors

Your body runs on a natural biological cycle of 24-26 hours – often called your 'body clock'. Your body clock programs you to sleep at night and to stay awake during the day.

Your body clock is controlled partly by light and dark and partly by what you do. If you normally work from 9am to 5pm, some of the things that happen to you as a result of your body clock are:

- the morning light tells your body clock to make you more alert (wakes you up);
- during the morning your body clock keeps you alert;
- after lunch, your body clock will turn your alertness down for a couple of hours;
- your body clock will make you most alert and aware in the late afternoon and early evening;
- darkness in the evening tells your body clock to turn your alertness down again so you can get ready to sleep; and
- after midnight your body clock will turn your alertness right down so that you are 'switched off' between 2am and 6am. At this time all your body functions are at their lowest level.

What all this means for you as a driver, is that you will usually be at your best, most alert and safest when driving during the morning, the late afternoon and early evening.

You will usually be at your worst between midnight and 6am when the body clock turns your alertness down. This is a dangerous time for drivers.

Information from road crashes shows this is true. Although there are fewer drivers on the road between midnight and 6am, statistics show they can be up to 20 times more likely to have a crash during those hours.

## Sleep Factors

There is only one way to prevent fatigue, and that is to get enough sleep.

Seven and a half hour's sleep is generally recognised as an average and normal need. If you get much less than this you will suffer fatigue. You will feel tired during the day but you will feel much worse at night when your body clock turns your alertness down.

You will also be a danger to yourself and others on the road. If you have not had any sleep for 17-18 hours, your ability to drive will be the same as if you had a BAC of 0.05 per cent.

Not only is that way over the 0.00 per cent BAC limit for a novice driver, but it also means your crash risk doubles.

You may like to go out at night and stay out, until the early hours of the morning. Just be aware that if you drive when you have not had enough sleep you are taking a big risk.

If you crash because you are not alert, you are likely to be held responsible.

## Work Factors

Long working hours or study hours or physically tiring work can affect your ability to drive. If you are a shift worker then you need to take extra care.

*Research shows that shift workers are six times more likely to be involved in 'fatigue-related' road crashes than other workers.*



## Health Factors

There are a number of medical factors that can prevent you from getting the long periods of sleep that you need to feel refreshed and alert.

If you had enough sleep during the night but you still feel tired and drowsy during the day you should consult your doctor. Look after your health and fitness. The healthier and fitter you are, the better you will sleep and the more alert you will be when driving.

Don't take stimulant drugs to keep you awake – these only delay sleep. When they wear off there can be a sudden onset of sleepiness, which is very dangerous, especially if you are driving.

### 1.5.3 What are the warning signs of driver fatigue?

There are a number of warning signs to indicate that you are becoming too tired to drive safely. Some of the warning signs are:

- you keep yawning;
- your eyes feel sore or heavy;
- you start daydreaming and not concentrating on your driving;
- your vehicle wanders over the road;
- you start hallucinating;
- your reactions seem slow; or
- your driving speed increases or decreases unintentionally.

Be honest with yourself. If you have any of these warning signs while you are driving, stop immediately and take a break.

### 1.5.4 Ways to reduce driver fatigue

Here are some tips to help you keep alert at the wheel:

- get plenty of sleep before you start driving on long trips;
- provide adequate time for sleep, rest and food during long trips;
- take regular breaks (at least every two hours) to walk and have a stretch;
- get fresh air into your vehicle (smoke and stale air can contribute to drowsiness); and
- learn to recognise the signs of sleepiness and pull over as soon as possible for a short break.

***Once fatigue sets in, there is nothing you can do about it except stop immediately and take a break or a nap.***

## 1.6 'Anti-Hoon' Legislation

Under 'Anti-Hoon' legislation, drivers and motorcyclists who endanger lives through reckless behaviour can have their vehicles impounded or confiscated.

People caught racing or doing 'burnouts' can lose their vehicles for 48 hours. If a second offence occurs, the vehicle can be impounded for up to 3 months and their driver's licence suspended.

On a third offence, the vehicle can be confiscated altogether and the driver's licence permanently disqualified.



**Drive like a hoon and we'll arrest your vehicle.**

## 1.7 Mobile Phones

A mobile phone may only be used by the driver of a motor vehicle to make or receive a phone call while driving if the phone is either;

- secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle; or
- if not secured, can be operated without touching it (voice activated).

It is illegal to create, send or look at a text message, video message, email or similar communication while driving.

The GPS function of a mobile phone may be used by a driver while driving as long as the phone is secured in a mounting, and the driver does not need to touch the phone (including the keypad or screen) at any time.

## 1.8 Other Road Users

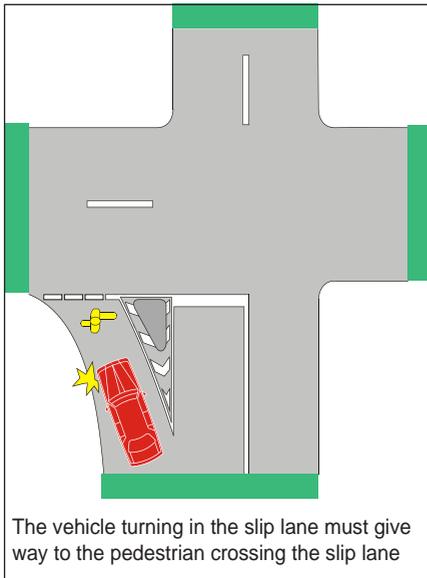
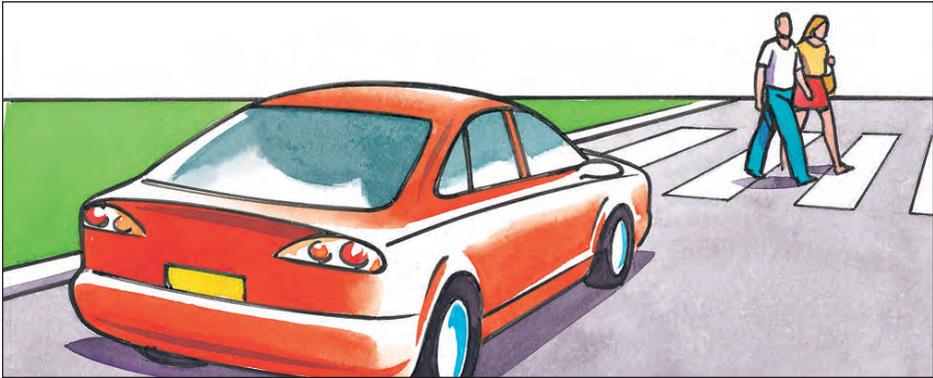
### 1.8.1 Pedestrians

Always keep a look out for pedestrians and be ready to stop for them. Some of the places to look out for pedestrians are:

- at pedestrian crossings;
- intersections;
- between parked cars or behind buses;
- near schools and playgrounds;
- near shopping centres; and
- near hotels, taverns or clubs, where people have been drinking alcohol.

**Drivers and riders must give way to pedestrians (including people in wheelchairs) who are:**

- crossing at an intersection in front of your turning vehicle; or
- crossing at a pedestrian crossing (zebra) or children's crossing; or
- crossing at a marked foot crossing (traffic signal controlled crossing for vehicles and pedestrian lights for pedestrians) when a light facing vehicles is flashing yellow or red; or



The vehicle turning in the slip lane must give way to the pedestrian crossing the slip lane

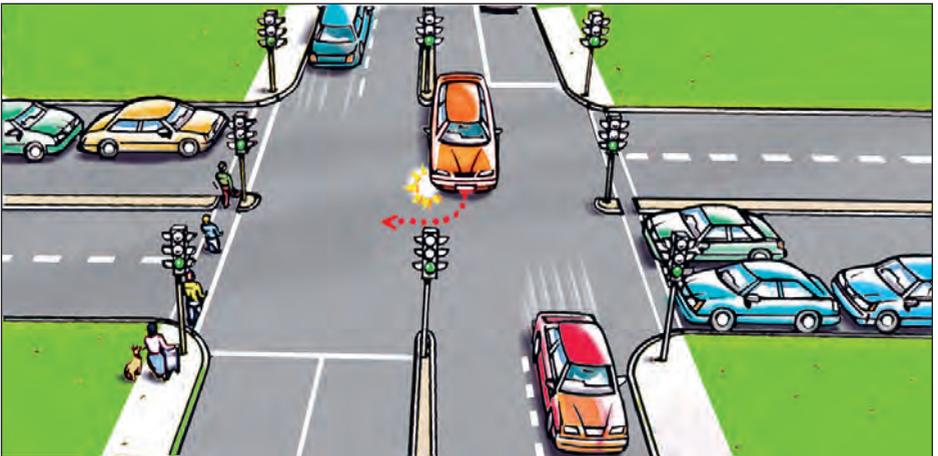
- crossing in front of your vehicle at a slip lane (a left turn lane at an intersection where there is an island between that lane and lanes for other traffic).



- At children's crossings you must stop before the crossing when the crossing attendant extends the flags. You must not start to move until the attendant withdraws the flags signalling that you can go.

### 1.8.2 Parallel walk crossings

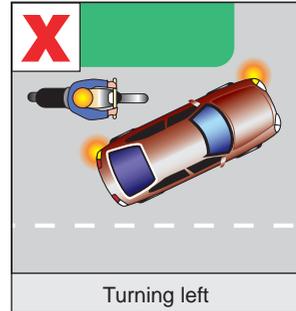
These are intersections controlled by traffic signals for vehicles and pedestrian lights for pedestrians to use to cross the road. Parallel walk crossings are those where pedestrians are permitted to walk on the green pedestrian signal, parallel with the flow of traffic. At these crossings the lights for pedestrians turn green a few seconds before drivers are given their green light to proceed and turning vehicles must give way to pedestrians crossing with the pedestrian lights.



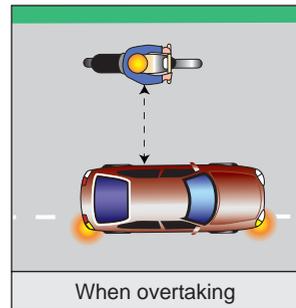
### 1.8.3 Cyclists and motorcyclists

Cyclists and motorcyclists have an equal right to use the road as other vehicles. Share the road with them and allow them plenty of room. Be courteous and take extra care when there are riders on the road by:

- being careful not to cut riders off when you are **turning left**. The motorcyclist in the diagram is in danger because the car turning left is cutting the rider off. **DO NOT** turn in front of cyclists or motorcyclists – wait for them to ride past;



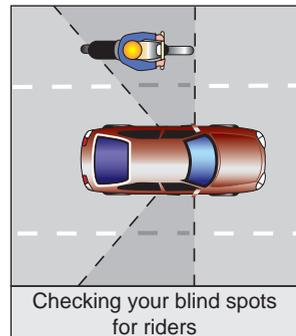
- taking extra care **when overtaking** riders because they are much more likely to be injured in the event of a crash. Keep a safe distance from them and give them at least one metre clearance from the side of your vehicle when you are overtaking. If it is not possible to overtake with one metre clearance, slow down and do not overtake until it safe to do so; and



- **checking your blind spots for riders.**

You do not have all round vision from within your vehicle. There are blind spots at the sides and rear. Check your blind spots by glancing over your shoulder before you move left or right.

Cyclists may legally use the whole lane on roads with lane markings. They are allowed to ride two abreast (side-by-side).



## 1.9 Motorcyclists

Being smaller than other vehicles, motorcycles are sometimes not easily seen. In addition to the road rules that apply to all road users, there are special rules to help protect motorcyclists.



### 1.9.1 Motorcycle safety

***The risk of being killed or injured on a motorcycle is far greater than in a car.***

All motorcyclists and their passengers must wear an approved safety helmet. If you do not wear one you will be fined and incur demerit points

In the interest of safety, a motorcyclist should also:

- **Wear protective clothing.**

To reduce the risk of sustaining severe injuries, you should always wear protective clothing as shown in the diagram.

The minimum clothes you should wear include closed shoes (not sandals or thongs etc), long pants and a jacket, as well as a helmet.

***You must wear appropriate protective clothing for your practical riding assessment. Gloves and eye protection are highly recommended.***

***See back of your Learner's Permit for more details.***

Many lightweight items now available will protect you just as well as heavier clothing.

## ■ Take extra care when you carry a passenger.

You may carry one passenger on your motorcycle provided you have a pillion seat and separate footrests. The passenger must wear an approved helmet, sit behind the rider, face forward and have both feet on the footrests at all times. If the passenger cannot reach footrests they are **not** allowed to be carried.

The rider of a motorcycle shall not ride on a road with a passenger who has not attained 8 years of age unless the passenger is in a sidecar.

Carrying a passenger adds weight to the motorcycle, making it slower to respond. Adjust your riding techniques to allow for the extra weight.

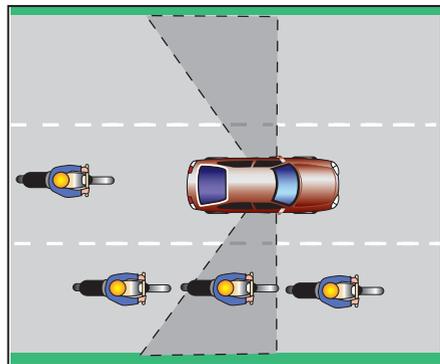
Your passenger should also wear appropriate protective clothing. Talk to your passenger as little as possible as it can distract you and increase your reaction time to hazards on the road.



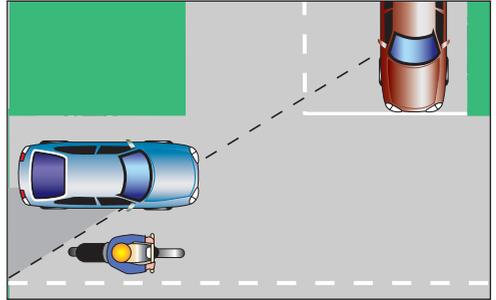
### 1.9.2 Ride to be seen by other road users

Smaller vehicles such as motorcycles appear further away and seem to be travelling slower than they actually are. Here are some ways that you can assist other road users to notice you:

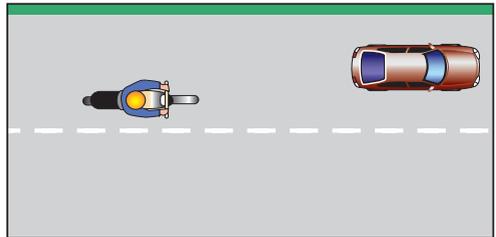
- turn on your headlights at all times – oncoming traffic will be able to see you much more easily;
- be ready to use your horn when passing another vehicle or whenever you are unsure if a driver is aware of your presence;
- flashing indicators or hand signals make you more visible – always use them;
- be visible – stay within the line of sight of other drivers:
  - do not ride in a driver's blind spot. If they cannot see you, they may make a manoeuvre such as moving into another lane, without making allowance for your motorcycle;
  - if you wish to travel at the same speed as another vehicle, travel behind or in front of it. This helps you to be seen; and



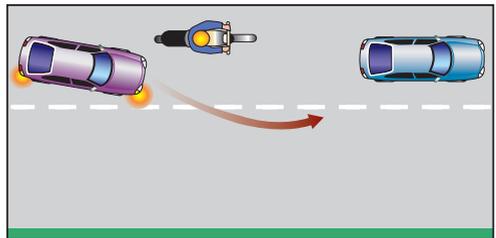
- at intersections, drivers may not see you. Do not assume that they have. Ensure you can be seen by all road users;



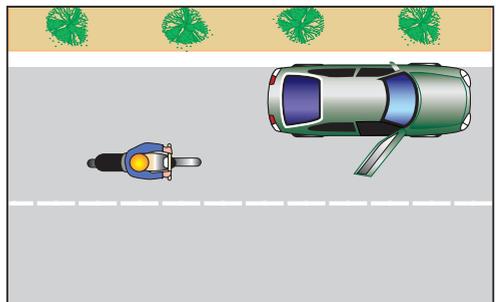
- always allow a 'cushion of space' on all sides of you (see Part 3.2):
  - in front of you – do not follow too closely behind another vehicle;

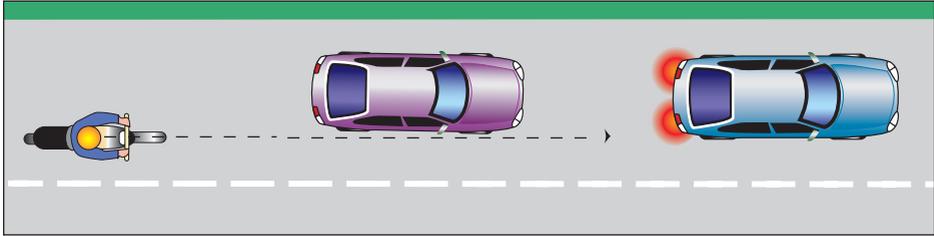


- behind you – if another vehicle is following too closely, slow down and allow the vehicle to overtake you; and



- to the side of you – when passing parked cars, be alert and allow plenty of room as someone may open a car door or a pedestrian may step out in front of you. When you are being overtaken, move to the left;





- when turning, diverging or changing lanes, indicate/signal for sufficient time to warn other drivers and pedestrians of the direction you are taking. Glance over your shoulder as well as checking your mirror - it is the only way to make certain there is no traffic behind you in your blind spots;
- use your mirrors frequently to check the traffic situation behind you;
- always look well ahead; and
- always practice correct braking techniques.

It is wise to make a habit of using your motorcycle's front and rear brakes every time you slow down or stop.

You will need to use both front and rear brakes in an emergency stop. To ensure that you develop the habit and skill of using them together, you should use both brakes for all stops.

Apply both brakes gently but firmly. Squeeze the front brake and press down on the rear brake. Do not 'grab' at the front brake or jam your foot down on the rear brake. This can cause the brakes to lock, resulting in serious control problems.

Always reduce your speed before entering a bend or making a turn. If you enter a bend or turn too quickly, you may lose control of your motorcycle.

## 1.10 The Ten Rules to Safe Driving

Road safety experts believe that if every driver followed these Ten Rules to Safe Driving, the road trauma rate would be dramatically reduced. The Ten Rules to Safe Driving are:

1. **Drive at a safe speed;**
2. **Don't drink and drive;**
3. **Obey the road rules;**
4. **Concentrate at all times and be prepared;**
5. **Be patient, and when in doubt, don't proceed;**
6. **Plan your moves well in advance;**
7. **Give correct signals;**
8. **Be alert particularly at intersections;**
9. **Know your vehicle; and**
10. **Be polite and considerate toward other road users.**

## 1.11 Pre-Driving Checks

### Is your car in safe working order?

Before you drive, take some time to check that your car is safe to be on the road. Some of the things you should look at are:

#### ■ Tyres

Tyre tread should be at least 1.5 mm deep (about the thickness of a match head) over all parts of the tyre surface that normally comes in contact with the road. Smooth tyres can cause you to skid and they can be very dangerous in wet conditions. Tyres should be inflated to the vehicle manufacturers' specifications. This is particularly important when you are driving long distances or when you are carrying a full load. Check the tyre pressure when your tyres are cold;

#### ■ Brakes

Have your brakes checked regularly by a qualified person. Faulty brakes will significantly increase your stopping distance;

#### ■ Steering

Ensure that your steering assembly is in good condition because faulty steering can cause your car to wander on the road;

#### ■ Lights

Make sure that all lights, including headlights, brake lights, indicator lights and parking lights are operating correctly. If your lights are not working properly, other drivers may not be able to see you or may not understand your intentions;

#### ■ Horn

Only use your horn to warn other road users of danger – it is an offence to use it for other purposes;

#### ■ Windscreen and windscreen wipers

A dirty windscreen is dangerous. It is easier to see through a clean windscreen, especially when driving into the sun, at night or in the rain.

You should replace faulty or damaged windscreen wipers because they prevent you from seeing clearly when it is raining; and

#### ■ Mirrors

You are legally required to have a mirror on your car and it is illegal to have anything hanging from it. Even with mirrors, your car has 'blind spots' or areas you can't see without looking over your shoulder. Other cars and especially motorcycles and bicycles can be completely hidden in your blind spots.

Make sure that your interior and exterior rear view mirrors are correctly adjusted.

These mirrors are intended to help you see what is on the road next to you and behind you. You should do this adjustment when you are in the correct driving position.

The following are tips for adjusting your mirrors.

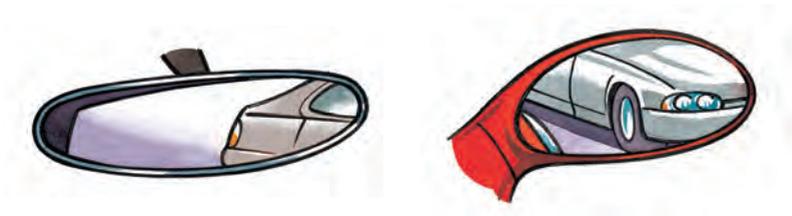
**INTERIOR REAR VIEW MIRROR** – adjust the mirror so that you have a clear view of the road behind; and



**EXTERIOR REAR VIEW MIRRORS** – adjust the rear view mirrors so that you can just see the tip of your door handle in the lower edge of the mirror.



To check that all mirrors are in the correct position, let a vehicle pass you on the right. As it passes out of your vision in the interior mirror, its front bumper should appear in your exterior mirror.





## PART 2

How to Obtain a  
WA Driver's Licence

**Western Australia has a graduated licensing system for new drivers. This means that novice drivers must complete a number of assessments and gain experience in different driving conditions before being granted a provisional driver's licence.**

**A graduated system also applies to drivers obtaining motorcycle or heavy vehicle licences. Full details of experience requirements for motorcycle or heavy vehicle licences are at Appendix 1.**

## **2.1 Getting Your Car (C class) Licence**

Before you can learn to drive any motor vehicle on the road, you must have a valid learner's permit. A learner's permit allows you to drive a vehicle of the specified class.

The minimum age at which a person can obtain a learner's permit to drive 'C' class vehicles is 16 years of age.

You may apply for a learner's permit at any Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or regional DVS agent. The permit is valid for 3 years and can be replaced free of charge.

When applying for a learner's permit for the first time you must provide evidence of your age, identity and where you live. The forms of identification you will need to take with you when applying for your learner's permit can be found at Appendix 4.

When you apply for a learner's permit, you will be charged a fee to undertake a theory test on the road rules, you will also be charged an application fee that entitles you to undertake one practical on-road driving assessment.

### **2.1.1 The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing System**

The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing system is designed to make sure learner drivers get a wider range of supervised driving experience under different road and traffic conditions over a longer period before driving solo.

The system is designed to help you acquire the practical driving skills, good driving habits and the responsible and courteous attitudes that are essential to safety on our roads.

**Learner drivers aged 25 and above, who are applying for a car (C class) licence, are exempt from the requirement to complete a Log Book.**

**Important: All novice (learner) drivers are subject to a zero blood alcohol content.**

**Supervising drivers are subject to blood alcohol content levels and a prohibition on illicit drugs in their system when supervising a learner driver. These are the same requirements that apply to the supervisor if they were driving the vehicle.**

## THE SIX STEPS TO A PROVISIONAL LICENCE

### Step 1 – Learner’s permit

Before you are issued with a learner’s permit you will have to:

- **pay for and pass a computerised theory test**

The computerised test consists of multiple choice questions on the road rules and safe driving practices. You need to read this book beforehand, as the information will help you to answer the test questions. You can also practice the learner’s test online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) to help you pass the test;

- **pay for and be issued a Learner Guide and Log Book**

If you pass the theory test, you will also need to pay for your learner’s permit and **Learner Guide and Log Book**.

- **pass an eyesight test**

If you need glasses or contact lenses to pass the test, your permit and licence will be endorsed to show that these must be worn when you drive; and

- **pass a medical test (if required)**

If you have a medical condition and/or take medication, you **MUST** declare this on the application form when you apply for a driver’s licence. The customer service officer will advise whether or not you will need to have a medical assessment before you can obtain a learner’s permit.

### Step 2 – Start to learn to drive

Once you have your learner’s permit and Learner Guide and Log Book, you can begin learning to drive with a supervising driver. You must complete and record a minimum of 50 hours (including a minimum of five hours at night) supervised driving experience prior to being eligible to sit a practical driving assessment. The person who teaches you to drive can be:

- (a) a person who holds an instructors licence issued under the *Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act 1963*; or
- (b) a person who is an instructor in a youth driver education course conducted or supervised by a body authorised by the Department of Transport for that purpose; or
- (c) a person who is authorised (licensed driver) to perform any driving of a kind for which the driving instruction is to be given\* and has had that authorisation for a period of, or periods adding up to —
  - (i) at least 2 years, in the case of driving of a moped; or
  - (ii) at least 4 years, in any other case.

\*This means that a person who is authorised to drive a ‘C’ class vehicle with an ‘A’ condition (automatic vehicle) cannot supervise a learner driver in a manual vehicle.

If your instructor has an automatic transmission condition on their licence, they can only supervise you in an automatic vehicle.

You must display ‘L’ plates on the front and rear of the vehicle when you are driving.

The highest speed allowable for learner drivers is 100 km/h. Learner drivers are not allowed to drive within the boundaries of Kings Park or wherever signs prohibit learner drivers.

Learner drivers must not drive if they have a blood alcohol concentration greater than 0.00 per cent.

### Step 3 – Hazard Perception Test (HPT)

To sit the HPT you must have at least six months driving experience and be a minimum age of 16 years and six months.

The test consists of a computer screen that displays a series of moving traffic scenes. You have to respond to each scene by clicking a mouse to indicate when it is safe to commence a manoeuvre or when it is necessary to take the appropriate action to reduce the risk of a crash for the traffic situation.

The computer recorded response time, or lack of response from you, will then be compared to the recommended response (or no response) times required, to pass the test.

You can sit the HPT at any Driver and Vehicle Services centre, partner or regional agent.

You do not need to make an appointment, you will be charged a fee prior to sitting the HPT.

### Step 4 – Continue to gain experience

Once you pass your HPT, you need to build on your experience and continue to record a minimum of 50 supervised driving hours including at least five hours at night (between sunset and sunrise).

**Research indicates that young novice drivers who gain at least 100-120 hours of supervised driving experience are better prepared for a lifetime of safe driving and are less likely to be involved in serious crashes.**

During this stage you must still display 'L' plates and drive within any of the conditions printed on your permit.

You should get as much supervised driving experience in as many different road, weather and traffic conditions as you can. This will better prepare you for when you can drive unsupervised and will help you pass the Practical Driving Assessment. It is recommended that your supervised driving experience includes:

- driving on freeways, highways and/or major roads;
- driving at night time; and
- driving at speeds between 80 km/h and 100 km/h on permitted roads.

You must take care of your Learner Guide and Log Book – keep it in a safe place at all times.

Only driving sessions that are properly recorded in the Log Book sections will be credited. You will not be given any credit for supervised driving that is not substantiated and detailed in your Log Book. If your Log Book is lost, destroyed or misplaced, you will need to pay for a new one and any previous supervised driving experience will not be credited.

The Log Book section of the Learner Guide and Log Book are legal documents and false or misleading information will cause those that have signed these documents to be liable to prosecution.

### Step 5 – Practical driving assessment (PDA)

When you have developed the ability to control a vehicle safely, completed a minimum of 50 hours (including a minimum of five supervised night time driving hours) of supervised driving experience, and if you are at least 17 years old you can book and sit a PDA. Online PDA bookings can be made for tests conducted at most Driver and Vehicle Services Centres and Agent locations, visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) or call 13 11 56 and have your learner's permit number on hand.

The assessment looks at the quality of your driving rather than the way you perform individual skills. When a learner driver shows signs of quality it generally means that they have had plenty of practice and have encountered many different driving experiences. So, to be ready to go for your PDA you will need to be able to handle many different situations without relying on your supervisor's help.

If you don't pass the PDA you will have to pay another fee to take the PDA again. It is in your interest to make sure you have enough experience before you make your appointment.

If you wish to change or cancel an appointment you must give more than two working days' notice, otherwise you will forfeit your PDA entitlement and have to pay for another one. To cancel or change an appointment for a PDA, please change your online PDA booking at visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) or phone 13 11 56.

On the day of your PDA:

- arrive at least ten minutes before the appointed PDA time;
- provide a roadworthy vehicle fitted with a centrally mounted handbrake of the correct class for your PDA;
- as soon as you arrive at the Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or DVS agent inform the staff that you have an appointment to sit a PDA;
- you will need to take your Learner Guide and Log Book with you to your PDA. The assessor will check that you have completed the minimum 50 hours (including a minimum of five supervised night time driving hours) of supervised driving before taking you for your PDA; and
- you will need to produce your learner's permit, primary and secondary identification prior to taking the PDA.

**Note: If you are late for your appointment or your Log Book has not been completed correctly or signed you will not be assessed, you will have to pay for and book another PDA.**

During your PDA, you will be given clear directions and no attempt will be made to confuse or trick you. The roads on which you will travel have been chosen to give a fair evaluation of your driving ability.

The driving assessor will be understanding, but will not discuss your driving as this may distract you. Remember, it is not the assessor's job to teach you how to drive. You should expect long periods of silence but that does not mean the assessor disapproves or is unfriendly. Listen carefully to what the assessor asks you to do and carry out the instructions as well as you can. After the PDA, if there is enough time the assessor may discuss your driving with you.

Assessors are subject to regular auditing and training. The auditor, trainer or trainee sits in the rear of the vehicle observing and recording the assessor's role in the assessment.

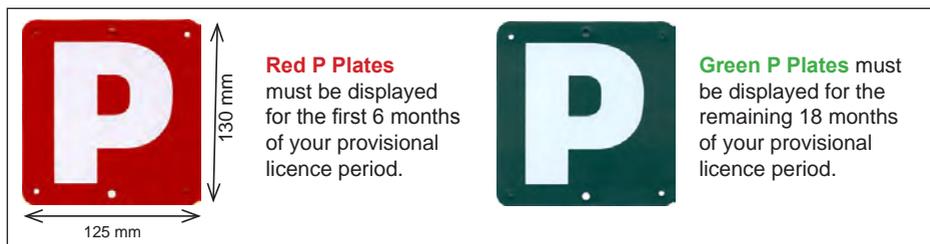
### Step Six – Provisional Licence

Once you have your provisional licence, you can drive without supervision. For the next two years you will have to display 'P' plates whenever you drive.

A person will be issued with a provisional licence if they:

- have not previously held a valid driver's licence (issued in either WA or another State or Country) for an aggregate period of two years; and/or
- are younger than 19.

### Important:



- While on 'P' plates it is illegal to drive with any alcohol in your blood. (i.e. Blood Alcohol Content of 0.00%)
- Supervising drivers are subject to blood alcohol content levels and a prohibition on illicit drugs in their system when supervising a learner driver. These are the same requirements that apply to the supervisor if they were driving the vehicle.
- You will be subject to night time driving restrictions for the first 6 months of your provisional licence period. This means you are unable to drive between the hours of midnight - 05:00am.
- Night time driving restrictions do not apply to people travelling to, from, and in the course of paid or voluntary work or for training or education purposes. If you do need to drive between midnight and 5 am for these reasons, we suggest you obtain and carry proof with you, such as a letter from your employer.

- You will also be subject to demerit point restrictions until you have held a driver's licence for two years or periods adding up to two years - see section 5.3.4 Graduated Demerit Point System (Novice Drivers).

- During your provisional licence period, you must display P plates in a visible position at the front and back of your vehicle or motorcycle at all times.

Further information regarding these restrictions and other laws relating to provisional drivers is available online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs). If you hold a provisional licence and you are convicted of any of the offences listed below and over the page, you may be fined and your provisional licence will be automatically cancelled:

- driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle with a BAC equal to or in excess of 0.02 per cent;
- failing to stop after a crash;
- failing to report a crash;
- failing to supply your correct name and address when required by a police officer;
- applying for or obtaining a licence while disqualified;
- forging or altering any driver licence document, vehicle licence document, or number plate;
- unlawfully possessing and using false number plates;
- stealing a motor vehicle;
- unlawfully killing a person while driving a vehicle;
- dangerous driving causing injury or death;
- dangerous or careless driving;
- failing to stop when called upon to do so by a police officer;
- unlawfully interfering with the mechanism of a vehicle;
- using false number plates, or being in possession of false driver or vehicle licence documents; or
- lending or allowing a person to use any vehicle licence document, driver licence document, or number plate.

## 2.2 Getting a Motorcycle Licence

To get a class R-N (moped), R-E (motorcycle restricted) or R (motorcycle) licence, you first need to obtain a learner's permit. You can apply for a Learner's Permit to drive a moped at the age of 15 years and 6 months. Before you get your learner's permit, you will have to answer a series of questions on the road rules and some specific questions relating to riding motorcycles.

As with all learner's permits, you are not allowed to ride on the road unless you have an instructor with you. This can be a licensed professional driving instructor or someone who currently holds a valid licence for the same motorcycle class as your learner's permit. Your instructor must have held that class of licence or equivalent for four years or more. In the case of a moped, your instructor must have held a class C, R-E or R licence (or equivalent) for at least two years. **You must carry your permit and drive within the conditions shown on the permit.**

Your supervisor can be carried on the pillion seat or in the sidecar, or they may ride another motorcycle. You must display 'L' plates on the front and rear of the motorcycle you are riding.

## 2.3 Getting a Heavy Vehicle Licence

Before you get a heavy vehicle licence class LR (light rigid), MR (medium rigid), HR (heavy rigid), HC (heavy combination) or MC (multi-combination), you must meet the experience requirements for that class of licence (see Appendix 1). You may need to obtain a learner's permit prior to undertaking lessons to drive a heavy vehicle. Please visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs) for further information.

If required, once you have obtained your learner's permit, you can learn to drive a heavy vehicle from within the class or eligibility. You cannot learn to drive unless you have an instructor with you. Your instructor can be a licensed professional driving instructor or someone who currently holds a valid licence for the same class as stated on your learner's permit and they must have held that class of licence for four years or more.

### 2.3.1 Assessment for Heavy Vehicles

During your driving assessment you must demonstrate your skills in a vehicle appropriate to the licence class.

If the vehicle used for your assessment is fitted with a non-synchromesh gearbox, you will have to change gears using the double de-clutch method. If you pass your assessment in a vehicle with an automatic or synchromesh gearbox, you will be granted with a licence stating such conditions.

To obtain an MC class licence, you have to meet the class eligibility requirements (see Appendix 1) and successfully complete an industry training course.

Please contact your local Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or regional DVS agent for details of assessment arrangements and training course providers.

## 2.4 Seniors Assessments

Persons aged 85 and over are required to undertake a driving assessment to retain the authority to drive/ride heavy vehicles or motorcycles each year before their licence is renewed.

When multiple entitlements are held to drive various vehicle licence classes (e.g. motorcycle and heavy vehicle) an assessment must be undertaken for each licence class to be retained.

Annual medical assessments are required for all licence holders aged 80 years and over. Please note, doctors concerned about a person's medical fitness to drive may recommend a person undertake a driving assessment.

## 2.5 Bribery

It is a serious offence to offer any gift or payment to obtain a licence. Any person who makes such an offer will be prosecuted.

## **2.6 Organ Donation**

Organ and tissue donation is an act of giving. When you reach the age of 16, you can register to make an organ or tissue donation if an unexpected event such as a car crash or a medical condition takes your life.

Registering as an organ donor means that if you are declared dead, your family will be asked to allow your wishes regarding the donation of organs or tissue to be fulfilled. This is how organs and tissue are obtained for transplantation.

The following information can help you make a decision about this very important subject.

### **2.6.1 The importance of organ donation**

There are a considerable number of children, teenagers and adults throughout Australia, who are waiting desperately for organ and tissue transplants. Organ and tissue donation can be either a life saving or a life enhancing procedure for these people.

The organs that can be donated are kidneys, heart, lungs, liver and pancreas. Tissue donations include corneas, heart valves and long bones. You can choose all of these, or select individual organs or tissue you wish to donate. You may also indicate that you do not wish to be an organ and tissue donor.

### **2.6.2 Circumstances of organ and tissue donation**

If you elect to donate your organs, donation will only take place after you have been certified dead and after your family has given its approval. In Australia, 'death' is defined as either irreversible cessation of:

- all functions of the brain; or
- circulation of the blood.

Brain death occurs when the brain has lost all function from lack of blood flow and is unable to recover. To determine function, senior doctors who cannot be involved in transplantation, carry out a number of tests. The tests are done twice.

Tissue donation takes place after clinical death when the heart has stopped and breathing ceased. Tissue donation can take place up to 24 hours after death.

Organ donation can take place only under certain circumstances where someone is declared 'brain dead' in hospital. This usually occurs in an intensive care unit and the person is always on a ventilator. Tissue donation takes place after death – that is, when breathing and heartbeat have ceased.

### 2.6.3 Medical procedures in organ donation

Donated organs are removed in an operating theatre by some of Australia's leading surgeons. Organ donation is treated like any other surgical operation. The body is not disfigured and can be viewed by the family after the procedure.

Once the organs are removed, the operation is complete. The family of the donor is then able to see their relative again. Funeral and burial arrangements are not affected by organ donation, and remain the responsibility of the family.

### 2.6.4 Becoming a registered organ donor

To register your wish to become an organ donor you need to complete an Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) form. This form is available at Medicare office locations or online at [www.DonateLife.gov.au](http://www.DonateLife.gov.au). The Australian Organ Donor Register is a national register that has replaced the drivers licence system for recording your wish to be an organ donor.

Generally there are no limitations on organ and tissue donation so both young children and elderly adults can still register on the AODR.

You must also talk to your family because they are the people who will be approached should you become a donor. If they are not aware of your wishes, they may not give permission for the donation to take place. This decision is so much harder if your family is unaware of your wishes and they are asked to make a decision on your behalf. Family discussion is very important.

#### TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ORGAN DONATION, CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

- **DonateLife**  
[www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au)
- **Australian Organ Donor Register**  
[www.hic.gov.au/organ](http://www.hic.gov.au/organ)  
ph: 1800 777 203
- **Lion's Eye Bank**  
ph: 9381 0770
- **Australian Kidney Foundation**  
Ph: 9322 1354

## 2.7 Blood Donation

Every single day someone needs blood or blood products. Precious blood donations help save people with cancer; heart; stomach and bowel diseases; pregnant women and their babies, road trauma victims and many other serious medical situations.

### 2.7.1 The importance of blood donation

One in three people are likely to need blood at some stage in their life and yet currently only one in thirty donate it. Once you reach your sixteenth birthday you can start saving lives by giving blood.

### 2.7.2 Are you eligible?

Blood donors need to be between 16 and 70 years old, weigh over 45kg, feel fit and healthy, not had a tattoo or body piercing in the last 12 months and not lived in the UK between 1980 and 1996 for six months or more.

If you believe you are eligible you can call 13 14 95 to make an appointment and talk to a medical officer to check your eligibility.

Special criteria applies to donating blood to ensure the safest blood supply for the Australian Health System.

If you would like more information on eligibility criteria, visit [www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au)

### 2.7.3 Where to give blood

Call 13 14 95 or go to [www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au) to make an appointment at the following blood donor centres:

- Metro Donor Centres - Perth, Whitfords, Fremantle, Cannington, Midland, Joondalup, Morley and Rockingham.
- Regional Donor Centres - Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie.

**It takes someone special to give blood.**





# PART 3

Major Road Rules  
& Additional Safety Advice

All drivers and riders should know the road rules. The following are some of the major ones together with some **ADDITIONAL SAFETY** advice.

### 3.1 Speed Limits

You must not exceed the legal speed limit for the road or area in which you are driving. Never drive at an unsafe speed for the conditions that exist at the time.

#### 3.1.1 What are the speed limits?

There are three major types of speed limits:

- **Speed limits that are shown on signs**

These can vary from as low as 10km/h up to 110km/h. Times when the limits apply can be shown on the signs, such as for school zones, or the signs can apply for roads in an area, such as area speed limits.

- **Speed limits that apply when there are no speed limit signs.**

They are called 'default' speed limits. One is the 'Built-Up' Area limit and one is the maximum State Speed limit.

#### In 'Built-Up' Areas

In a 'built-up' area, the 'default' speed limit is 50 km/h unless a sign shows a different speed.

A 'built-up' area is any road:

- on which there is provision for street lighting at intervals of not over 100 metres for a distance of at least 500 metres; or
- which is 'built up' with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling houses at intervals of less than 100 metres for a distance of 500 metres or more.

#### Outside 'Built-Up' areas

The speed limit that applies in Western Australia outside 'built-up' areas and where there are no speed limit signs is currently 110km/h. The places where this limit starts may be indicated on signs such as a 'derestriction sign' or a speed limit sign with the word 'END' on it.



### ■ Temporary speed limits

Temporary speed limit signs, for speeds lower than those that normally apply, may be installed along a road for a number of reasons such as poor road conditions, or work or events being undertaken. These temporary speed limits are for the safety of drivers as well as for people undertaking work or participating in an event on or near a road.

The law in regard to temporary speed limits is the same as applies to normal speed limits - that is, you must not exceed the speed limit shown on the sign.

### ■ Speed limits that apply for certain vehicles and drivers

There are speed limits placed on certain vehicles and drivers even though a higher speed limit may be permitted for other vehicles or drivers:

***It should be remembered that speed limits are the maximum you are allowed to drive at under the best conditions. You must drive slower when the road is wet, narrow, slippery, winding, hilly, has a loose surface etc., or visibility is poor or traffic conditions require you to drive slower for safety.***

	Max Limit
Learner drivers	100 km/h
Vehicles towing caravans or trailers	100 km/h
Buses and coaches over 5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)	100 km/h
Vehicles with a Gross Combined Mass (GCM) over 12 tonnes	100 km/h

Provisional drivers can drive up to 110km/h (where this is the maximum speed limit), but should remember that they are still gaining experience and need to take extra care.

## 3.2 Following Distances

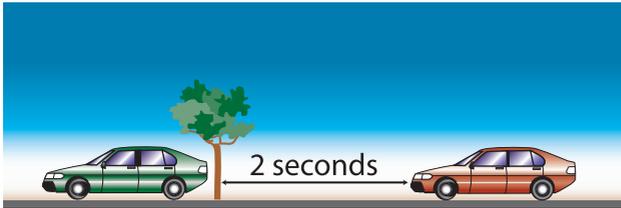
You must keep enough distance behind a vehicle that will enable you to stop the vehicle safely in an emergency – and without running into the vehicle in front.

***Most rear end collisions are caused by drivers following too closely behind the vehicle in front of them.***

The space or 'cushion' between you and the vehicle in front of you is called the following distance. To determine how much following distance you should allow, consider the speed of the traffic and the condition of the road.

### 3.2.1 The 'Two Second' rule

A way of estimating what is an adequate following distance is to use what is called the 'two second' rule.



While driving along the road look at an object by the side of the road, such as a tree or pole, that will soon be passed by the vehicle ahead. As soon as that vehicle passes the object, say to yourself, 'one

thousand and one, one thousand and two'. You should take the full two seconds it takes to say this to reach the object. If you get there before you have said it, you are too close. Slow down until you are at least two seconds behind the vehicle ahead.

Remember that this 'two second rule' is a guide to use in good road, traffic and weather conditions. If they are not good, increase your following distance to four or five seconds.

Always remember to allow a 'cushion of space' at the front, rear and on both sides of your vehicle. This is the margin for error you have in an emergency situation. The easiest 'cushion of space' to control is the one in front of you – make sure you always maintain a safe following distance.



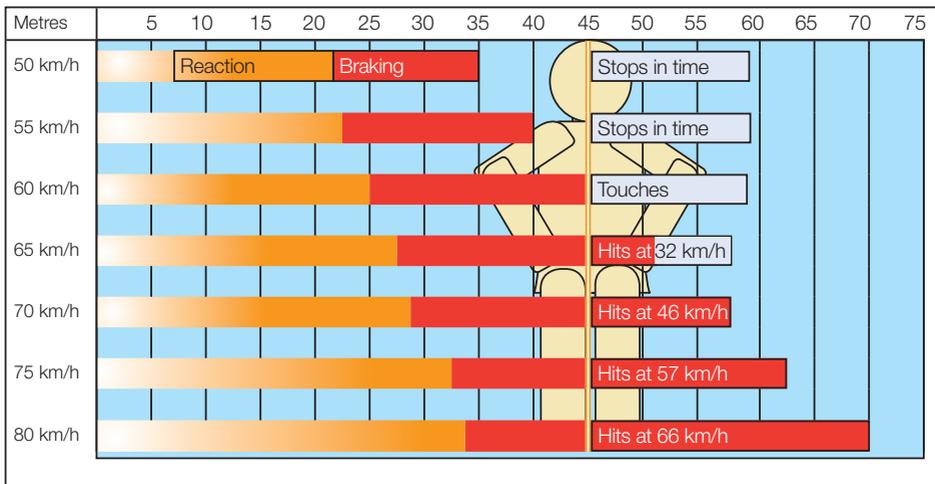
### 3.2.2 How long does it take to stop your car?

The time it takes to stop a car depends on:

- **reaction distance** – the distance travelled from the time you realise you need to stop until you apply the brakes. An alert driver takes at least 1.5 seconds to react to an emergency. At 60km/h the vehicle will travel 25 metres in this time. If you are not concentrating on the road, your reaction time may be three or four seconds, and in some instances you may not react at all;
- **braking distance** – the distance travelled from the time you apply the brakes until the vehicle stops. At 60km/h you will cover another 20 metres before this happens, assuming you are driving on a dry road in a modern car with good tyres and brakes. When the road is wet, the braking distance will increase because you are not able to brake as hard as you can on a dry road. Braking hard on a wet road may cause your car to skid. The braking distance will also increase if your tyres and/or brakes are not in good condition;

- **stopping distance** – the total of reaction distance plus braking distance. It is the distance travelled once you react to an emergency, apply the brakes, and come to a stop. If you are doing 60km/h, add 25 metres (which is the best case reaction distance), to 20 metres (which is the best case braking distance) and you will come up with 45 metres; and
- **road conditions** – drive carefully over road surfaces that are covered with loose material or that are in poor condition. Adverse conditions such as wet weather and poor road surfaces increase stopping distances.

Let's assume it is a dry day, your car is new and your tyres and brakes are in top condition. You are driving along when a child runs onto the road, 45 metres ahead. The table below shows what happens at different travel speeds.



*(The above information has been provided by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau)*

*Remember, the main factors that can influence stopping distance are your vehicle's speed, the condition of your brakes and tyres and the road and weather conditions.*

### 3.2.3 How long does it take to stop a heavy vehicle?

Heavy vehicles and vehicles carrying heavy loads may require extra stopping distance. Although a truck driver may be keeping a safe distance from the vehicle in front, if you cut in and then brake or stop suddenly (e.g. at traffic control signals), you could cause a crash. This could result in damage to your vehicle and injury to yourself and passengers you may be carrying. There is further information on sharing the road with large vehicles at Part 3.16.5.

### 3.3 Driving in Different Conditions

#### 3.3.1 Driving at night

*The distance that you can see ahead and to the side is severely reduced after dark.*

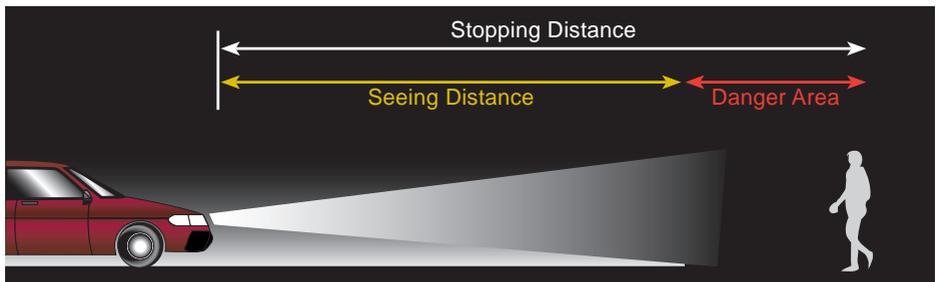
This means that it will take you longer to respond to hazards after dark. About one-third of serious crashes occur after dark.

You must use extra caution to allow for the reduced visibility after dark.

#### Switch on your headlights

*Drive with your headlights on between the hours of sunset and sunrise or when conditions require it.*

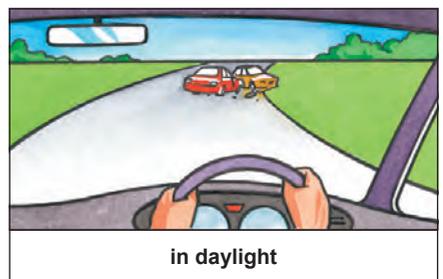
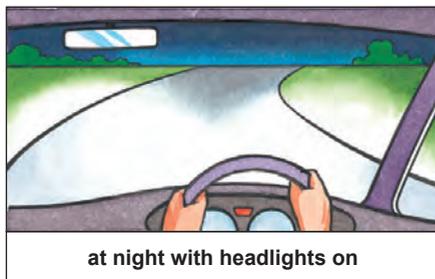
Always bear in mind that while you need good visibility to drive safely, it is equally important for other drivers to be able to see you.



#### Be aware of reduced vision

Drive at a speed that allows you to stop within the area lit by your headlights.

Your headlights show you what is straight ahead, but not what is around corners or bends in the road. When entering curves at night, slow down and drive carefully.



## Use of high beam

Use your high beam for better visibility. However, as high beam lights may dazzle oncoming drivers, you are legally required to dip your headlights:

- as soon as an approaching vehicle's lights are dipped;
- when you are within 200 metres of an approaching vehicle; or
- when you are driving less than 200 metres behind another vehicle.

If a vehicle comes towards you with lights on high beam:

- slow down;
- look to the left of the road;
- keep to the left of the road; and
- if you cannot see, stop.

You are briefly able to switch your headlights to high beam when you are approaching another vehicle from behind and about to overtake that vehicle. This is to alert the driver that you are about to overtake them.



## Tips for driving at night

When driving at night:

- keep your windscreen and headlights clean;
- do not wear tinted glasses, except under the advice of an eye specialist;
- turn your headlights on when it begins to get dark so that other road users can see you;
- do not use fog lamps except where visibility is very poor (see Part 3.3.3); and
- stop and rest if you feel sleepy. Fatigue is one of the major causes of road crashes (see Part 1.5).

### 3.3.2 Driving in wet or hazardous weather

It is difficult to see clearly in the rain. To improve safety when driving in wet weather:

- be sure that your windscreen wipers are in good condition and your windscreen is clean;
- turn your headlights on to low beam;
- use your air conditioner to prevent your windscreen from 'misting up'; and
- if you do not have an air conditioner, use the heater demister and, if necessary, open the windows.

You need to be especially observant while driving in the rain as pedestrians and cyclists can be difficult to see.

#### Keeping your distance (see Part 3.2.1)

*It takes longer to stop when the road is wet, so do not follow another vehicle too closely when it is or has been raining.*

You should at least double the following distance between yourself and the vehicle in front when the road is wet or visibility is poor.

### 3.3.3 Driving in fog or smoke

It is difficult to see clearly when driving in fog or smoke. Don't put your lights on high beam as this only lights up the fog or smoke and makes the road more difficult to see.

In fog or smoke you should:

- dip your headlights so you can see more easily;
- drive slowly;
- not follow closely behind another vehicle; and
- use your fog lights if you have them.

Do **not** use fog lights incorrectly. It is illegal. If your vehicle is fitted with fog lights (either on the front or rear) you must:

- only have them on in fog or other hazardous weather conditions that reduce visibility; and
- not have front fog lamps and headlights on at the same time.

### 3.3.4 Country driving

When driving in the country:

- consider other road users and be patient;
- watch out for wildlife and livestock on roads particularly at sunrise and after sunset;
- watch out for tractors towing farm machinery, especially during seeding and harvest times;

- plan your journey to ensure you have enough fuel and water to get you to the next town;
- don't stop on or near bridges, floodways or on narrow sections of roadway;
- park at the forward end of roadside parking bays to allow others to enter and leave; and
- don't pull out on to the roadway when you see another vehicle approaching. Wait until the other vehicle has passed.

## 3.4 Keeping to the Left

There are two keep left rules that are very important. They are for your safety and that of other road users. One rule relates to when there are no lanes marked on roads and the other is when there are lanes.

### 3.4.1 Roads without marked lanes

The 'keep left' rule on these roads means that you must:

- keep as far to the left of the road as practicable, especially when you are turning left or going up a hill. (Note that motorcycle riders are exempt from this requirement and may ride away from the left side but left of the centre of the road or centre line).

***If you are driving a slow moving vehicle, pull well over to the left to allow following traffic to overtake.***

### 3.4.2 Roads with 2 or more lanes

If the speed limit that applies to a road is 90km/h or higher or there are 'KEEP LEFT UNLESS OVERTAKING' signs installed, you are **not** permitted to drive in the right lane of these roads unless:

- you are turning right or making a 'U' turn and giving a right turn signal;
- you are overtaking another vehicle;
- the adjacent left lane is a special purpose lane such as a bus lane or bicycle lane;
- the left lane is a left turning lane and you are travelling straight ahead; or
- the other lanes are congested with traffic.

## 3.5 Railway Crossings

Railway crossings can be dangerous, especially when there are no flashing lights or boom gates.

***Remember that trains cannot stop quickly – even under emergency brakes, a loaded train can take over 1000 metres to stop and it cannot swerve to avoid a vehicle on the tracks.***

Always be alert for signs that show you are approaching a railway crossing. If there are no lights or boom gates, **look** and **listen** for any trains that may be approaching and be prepared to stop, slow down or give way. When approaching crossings in country areas, always look out for a train – they do not always run to set schedules.



### 3.5.1 When you must stop

You must stop before a rail crossing when:

- you are directed to do so by a railway employee and you may only proceed when told to do so;
- you can see or hear a train coming and there is any possibility of a collision;
- there is a 'STOP' sign at, or near, the crossing. (If there is a 'STOP' line marked on the road, you must stop before it. If there is no 'STOP' line, you must stop before the 'STOP' sign);
- warning bells or flashing red lights are operating;
- boom gates are down; or
- there is traffic ahead of you that prevents you from completely clearing the yellow 'Keep Clear' at all times' (cross hatching) section of crossing safely. Be cautious, always expect a train.



*If there is no 'STOP' line or 'STOP' sign to show you where to stop, always stop well clear of the crossing (at least three metres from the nearest rail). Remember the train can be up to one metre wider than the tracks on both sides.*

You must **not**:

- stop or park at any rail crossing within 20 metres of the nearest rail (either before or after) unless there are parking control signs that allow you to do so;
- stop on the yellow 'Keep Clear at all times' (cross hatching) section of the crossing; or
- drive through, around or under any gate, boom or barrier at a rail crossing, either when it is down or being raised or lowered.

***To reduce the risk of being caught on or near the rail line at some crossings the yellow 'Keep Clear at all times' (cross hatching) extends to the traffic lights.***

### 3.5.2 When can you drive on

You can drive on when:

- the lights and bell have stopped flashing and ringing;
- you are certain there are no more trains coming (be aware that other trains may be coming from the opposite direction and during peak periods there may be 3 or 4 trains before the crossing is cleared);
- you are sure you can safely clear the crossing; or
- you are directed to do so by a railway employee.

## 3.6 Buses and Taxis

***You must give way to a bus moving out from a bus stop in a 'built-up' area providing the bus is indicating and has a 'GIVE WAY' sign displayed on the back.***

Bus lanes are reserved for use by public buses. In some instances taxis are also permitted to use a bus lane. You must not drive in a bus lane or a bus/taxi lane unless you are leaving or entering a road, passing a turning vehicle or passing an obstruction. You must give way to vehicles already in these lanes before you cross or enter them.



## 3.7 Crossing Water on Roadways

***Floodways and river crossings are dangerous places.***

Inexperienced drivers should use an alternative route if one is available. However, if there is no alternative route, before crossing water on the road such as floodways, streams or rivers, always check:

- the depth of the water by getting out of the vehicle and physically walking the intended crossing if it is safe to do so. If the water is not flowing, the water level should be no higher than the bottom of the vehicle on conventional 2 wheel drive vehicles and no higher than the average adult's knee (when standing) on higher 4 wheel drive vehicles. If the water is flowing and deeper than the bottom of the vehicle's chassis, do not cross.

***Do not cross if the water level is too deep or fast flowing.***

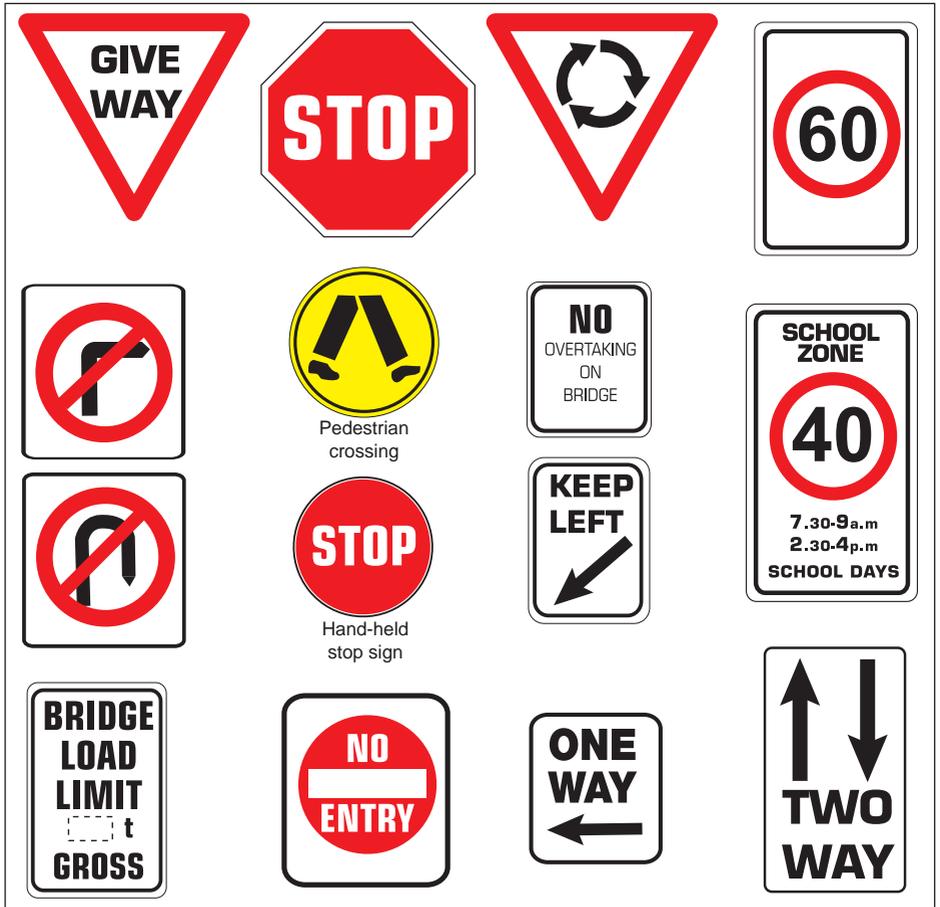
### 3.8 Traffic Signs

*Signs are installed along our roads to make them safer for all users.*

There are a number of categories of road signs, they are:

- Regulatory signs

The purpose of regulatory signs is to control traffic.  
You must obey a regulatory sign.



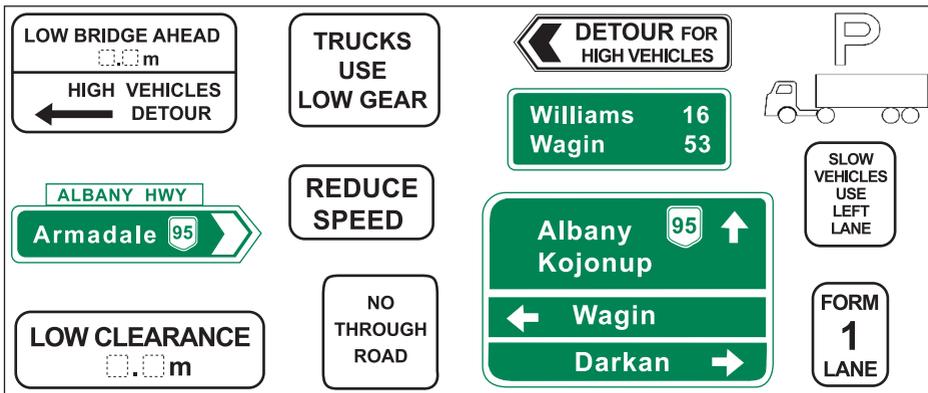
■ Warning signs

Warning signs alert you of possible dangers ahead. They are generally yellow with black lines, writing or numbers on them. Pedestrian warning signs are usually red-orange in colour. When you see a warning sign, slow down. In some cases advisory speed signs are displayed with warning signs - such as approaching sharp curves or bends. If there is such a sign, you should slow down to at least the speed on the sign. In wet weather slow down even further.



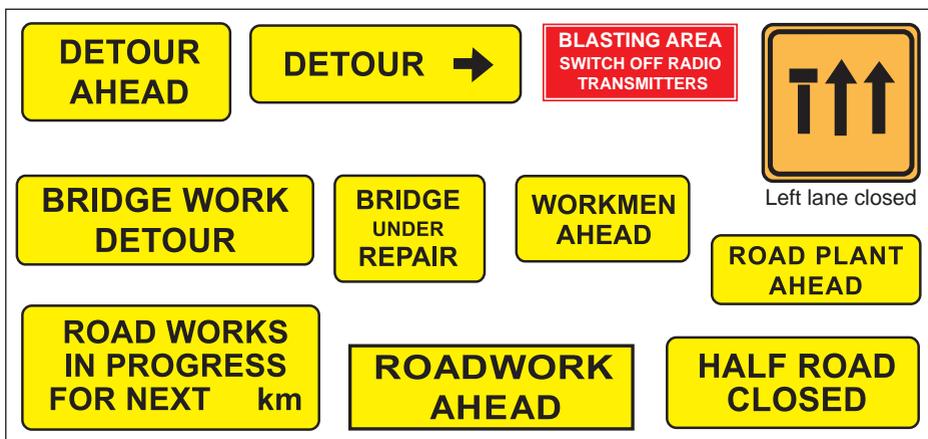
- Guide signs

Guide signs help you find your way around. They give directions, distances, routes, and information on road user services and points of interest.



- Signs and devices for road works and special purposes

These signs warn you about temporary hazards. They are used where there are road works in progress. Their purpose is to protect people working on or near the road and those travelling along it, to guard against damage to vehicles and to protect the road. Pay particular attention to the signs including any speed limits that are displayed.

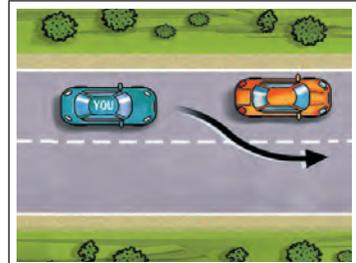


### 3.9 Road Markings

Different road markings have different meanings. Markings that are used to mark lanes (lane lines) or separate traffic travelling in opposite directions (dividing lines) are particularly important:

- broken lines

Broken lines are used to mark lanes for traffic travelling in the same direction or to mark dividing lines on roads. Where there is a broken white line on the road, YOU may cross the line to either overtake or to change lanes, provided it is safe to do so;



YOU may cross these broken lines to overtake or change lanes

- single continuous (unbroken) white lines

Single unbroken lines are used either to mark edge lines, lane lines or dividing lines (centre lines) on roads. Where there is a single continuous line dividing line (centre line), YOU must **not** cross that line except to leave or enter the road or turn at an intersection or 'U' turn.

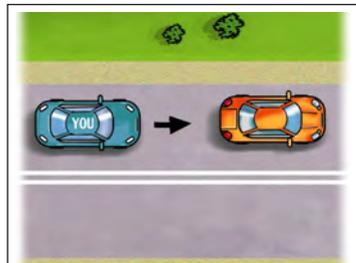
Where the line is between lanes travelling in the same direction (lane lines) YOU must **not** cross the line to change lanes. Where the line is an edge line, you may cross the edge line to stop, enter or leave a road, or pass on the left side of a vehicle turning right;



YOU must not cross a continuous dividing line to overtake or a continuous lane line to change lanes

- double continuous (unbroken) lines

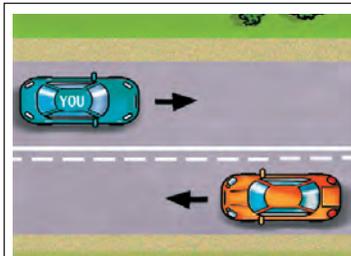
These lines are used as dividing lines (centre lines) on roads. YOU must **not** cross these lines to overtake but you can cross them to turn right at an intersection, 'U' turn or enter or leave a road if it is safe to do so;



YOU must not cross these dividing lines to overtake

- continuous line and broken line combinations

These combinations of lines are used to mark dividing lines on roads where it may be dangerous to overtake. Where there is a continuous line marked on your side of the road and a broken line marked on the other side, YOU must stay to the left of both lines. If the broken line is on your side (to the left) of a continuous line then YOU may cross the lines to overtake, turn right, 'U' turn or enter or leave the road if it is safe to do so;



YOU cannot cross these lines to overtake

- merging lanes

When two lanes merge into one lane (and this might also be indicated by signs such as 'LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT' or 'LANE ENDS MERGE RIGHT' or 'FORM ONE LANE', or symbolic warning signs you must give way to another vehicle if any portion of it is ahead of your vehicle.

***You should indicate that you are merging by using your indicator or hand signal.***

Remember to keep a safe distance between yourself and the vehicle in front and take turns to merge if there are long lines of merging traffic;



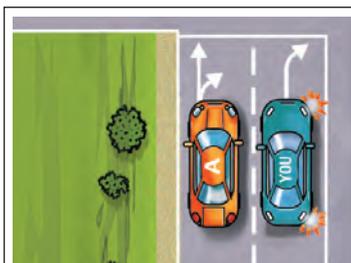
YOU should indicate that you are merging

- arrows on the road

If you are travelling on a road with arrow markings, you must drive in the direction of the arrows unless you are able to change to another lane where another direction can be followed.

In this diagram, YOU must turn right.

Car A may turn right or go straight ahead;



YOU must drive in the direction of the arrows

- children's crossing

***When the children's crossing guard extends the flags, you must stop before the stop line and wait until the flags are removed before driving on.***

You must not enter a children's crossing if the road beyond it is blocked by traffic;



- pedestrian crossing

*You must give way to all pedestrians on a pedestrian crossing.*

On some roads there are zigzag lines painted to indicate you are approaching a pedestrian crossing;



- KEEP CLEAR area

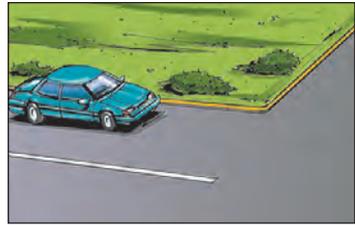
You must not stop your vehicle on a section of road that has the words 'KEEP CLEAR' written on it;



- single yellow line

A 'NO STOPPING' area may be marked with a single yellow line on the edge of the road.

You must not stop a car next to or on a single yellow line unless you are held up by traffic.



### 3.10 Traffic Control Signals

Traffic control signals are a safe way of deciding who goes and who stops at an intersection. They are there to protect you and to regulate traffic.

Always obey the signals facing you. It is an offence not to obey them. When nearing a set of traffic control signals be prepared to stop, if necessary.

You cannot do a 'U' turn at an intersection with traffic control signals unless there is a 'U TURN PERMITTED' sign.

#### 3.10.1 Intersection traffic control signals

- Traffic control signals always have the coloured lights in the same order.
- Red means **STOP**.
- When the light is red, you must wait behind the stop line marked on the road near the signal.
- If there is a traffic sign facing you with the words 'LEFT TURN ON RED PERMITTED AFTER STOPPING', you may turn left, if you can do so safely. Watch out for and give way to pedestrians and other traffic. Remember, you must always stop at the red light first.



- A yellow light warns you that the signal is about to change to red.

***If the light is yellow as you approach it you are required to STOP, IF YOU CAN DO SO SAFELY.***

- When the light is green, you may proceed through the intersection provided it is safe to do so.

***Watch out for vehicles disobeying the traffic control signals because many serious crashes are caused by vehicles driving through intersections against a red light.***



- Watch out for pedestrians who may still be crossing the road.

The flashing yellow light **at intersections** with traffic control signals indicates that the signals are not working properly. Do not confuse these with Pelican Lights (see Part 3.10.3) which provide safe crossing for pedestrians. If there is a flashing yellow light at an intersection, you should treat the intersection as if you have a 'GIVE WAY' sign facing you (see Part 3.13).

Remember to look out for pedestrians.

**If the traffic control signals are not working at all (no light is displayed) always slow your vehicle and be prepared to stop. Treat the intersection as if you are facing a 'GIVE WAY' sign.**



### 3.10.2 Intersection traffic control arrows

Some traffic control signals have arrows in addition to circular lights.

These are used to control the movement of traffic intending to turn at the intersection.

If you are going straight ahead, obey the main circular lights.

If you are turning, obey the arrow signal that is pointed in the direction that you plan to turn.

- Red light with green arrow

This means you may not go straight ahead, but you may turn in the direction of the arrow, if it is safe to do so.

Remember, you must give way to all pedestrians crossing at the intersection.



- Green light with green arrow

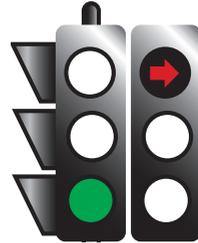
This means you may either go straight ahead or turn in the direction of the arrow, if it is safe to do so.

If the green arrow disappears and no red light or arrow appears, you may start to proceed – but only if it is safe to do so.



- Green light with red arrow

This means that you may go straight ahead, if it is safe to do so. However, you may not turn in the direction of the arrow.



### 3.10.3 Pelican signals

A pelican crossing works like normal traffic control signals, except that it has an extra phase – a flashing yellow light.

Do not confuse pelican signals with flashing yellow lights at intersections (see Part 3.10.1), which indicate that the lights are not working.

***The flashing yellow light at a pelican crossing means 'PROCEED WITH CAUTION'.***

It tells you that you may go ahead, unless there are pedestrians crossing. If there are, you must give way to them.



### 3.10.4 Officer directing traffic

When there are unusual traffic flows, or if the power is cut, a police officer or other authorised person may be on duty to ease the traffic flow. You should get into the correct lane and indicate clearly where you want to go.

***You must comply with the direction of a police officer or other authorised person.***

Their directions overrule:

- traffic control signals;
- 'STOP' and 'GIVE WAY' signs;
- the 'give way to the right' rule; and
- arrows or other markings on the road surface.

## 3.11 INDICATORS and HAND Signals

*Indicators and hand signals are an effective way to communicate with other road users.*

You may be planning to stop, change lanes or turn, but unless you let other drivers know, you can cause problems to other traffic.

Be consistent and considerate about using indicators/signals at the appropriate times.

### 3.11.1 When must you indicate/signal?

You must indicate/signal your intention before:

- turning left or right;
- changing lanes;
- pulling out from a kerb or stationary position;
- moving to the left or right;
- making a 'U' turn;
- pulling out to overtake;
- moving back after you have overtaken a vehicle; or
- slowing down or stopping.

### 3.11.2 Types of indicators/signals

There are three types of indicators/signals:

- brake lights

You must give a signal of your intention to stop. Brake lights warn other road users that you are slowing down or stopping. Your brake lights must be clearly visible at all times, including in sunlight and at distances of up to 60 metres;

- flashing indicators

***You must give sufficient warning to other drivers and pedestrians of your intention to turn or diverge right or left, change lanes or overtake another vehicle.***

What is sufficient warning depends on the circumstance. It is about providing warning of your intentions so that other road users can take the appropriate safety precautions.

On high speed roads, indicating may be necessary for several hundred metres, while on low speed roads much lesser distances may be sufficient.

If you are starting from a stationary position at the side of a road you must indicate for at least 5 seconds prior to driving on. You must also give way to following or overtaking traffic.

Do not drive on until it is safe to do so. Remember to turn the indicator off after the turn/movement has been completed; and

- Hand signals

These must be used if your vehicle is not equipped with stop light or flashing indicators.

Car drivers and motorcyclists must use this hand signal when:

- slowing down;
- stopping; or
- turning left.



- Car drivers and motorcyclists should use this hand signal when:

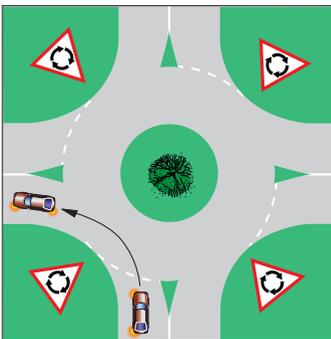
- turning right; or
- overtaking another vehicle.



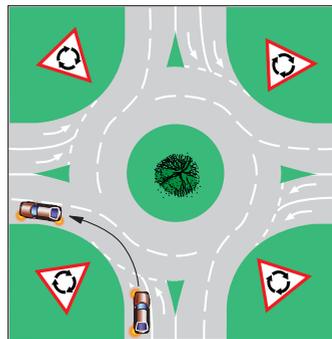
### 3.11.3 Indicators/signals at roundabouts

Roundabouts have several exit points. Enter a roundabout only when there is a safe gap in the traffic and no risk of a crash.

When turning left at a roundabout, approach from the left lane, indicate/signal left, stay in the left lane and exit in the left lane.

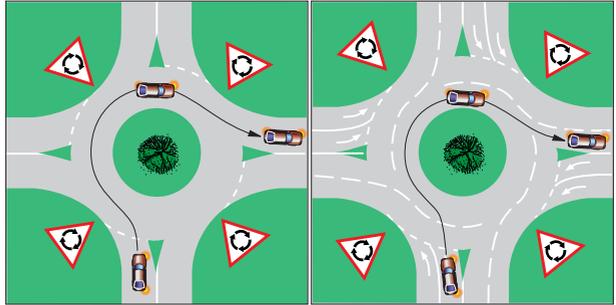


Turning left - single lane



Turning left - two or more lanes

When **turning right** at a roundabout, approach from the right lane, indicate/signal right and stay in the right lane. Indicate/signal left, if practicable, as you are passing the exit before the one you wish to use. When leaving the roundabout, exit in the right lane.

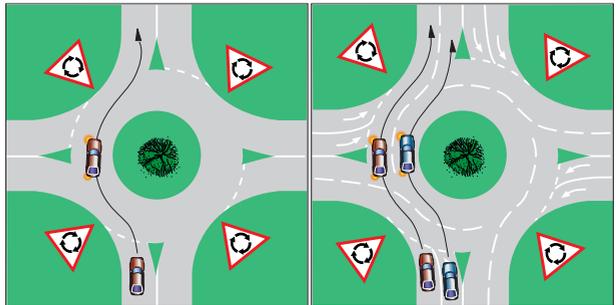


Turning right - single lane

Turning right - two or more lanes

You do not need to indicate/signal when you are approaching a roundabout if you are **going straight ahead**.

Unless the road markings show otherwise, approach the roundabout from either the left or right lane and **drive in that lane throughout the roundabout**.

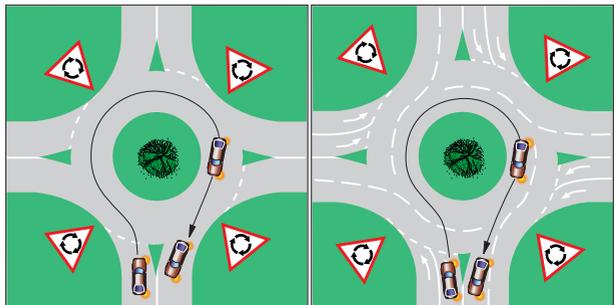


Going straight ahead - single lane

Going straight ahead - two or more lanes

Indicate/signal left if practicable, as you are passing the exit before the one you wish to use. Exit in the same lane in which you entered (that is, exit in the left lane if you entered in the left lane or the right lane if you entered the roundabout in the right lane).

If you are using the roundabout to make a **full turn ('U' turn)**, that is, to turn back into the same road from which you entered the roundabout, follow the instructions for turning right.



Full turn - single lane

Full turn - two or more lanes

Generally, take care when you drive in a roundabout, especially when you are changing lanes and leaving it.

Watch out for:

- vehicles that are leaving the roundabout;
- vehicles that are making a full turn; and
- bicycles, long vehicles and motorcycles.

## 3.12 Freeway Driving

There are a number of special road rules and conditions that apply to freeways.

### 3.12.1 Basic freeway rules

*Before you drive on a freeway, make sure you are confident in your ability to drive at freeway speeds.*

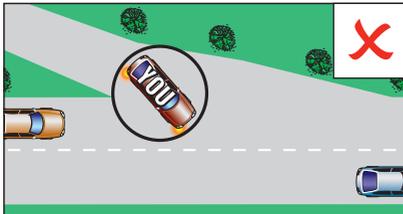
As freeway speeds are higher than those normally permitted on roads in 'built-up' areas (see Part 3.1.1), it is even more important to be aware of what is happening around your vehicle. The following may help you:

- check your rear vision mirrors frequently and check your blind spots before changing lanes;
- indicate/signal well in advance before you change lanes, enter or leave the freeway. You must give way to traffic in the lane you are moving into and only move when it is safe to do so. Move gradually but positively to your selected position on the freeway;
- be smooth and courteous when merging with other traffic. During merging you must give way to another vehicle if any part of the other vehicle is ahead of your vehicle. Keep a safe distance between yourself and the vehicle in front;
- keep a lookout for directional signs. The sooner you spot them, the better prepared you will be to get into the correct lane. Move into the lane you want as soon as practicable but remember, where the freeway speed limit is 90km/h or higher, do not use the right lane unless you are overtaking or when other lanes are congested;
- in conditions of reduced visibility, such as rain, fog or smoke, reduce your speed and increase your following distance. Turn your headlights on to low beam so that other drivers can see you; and
- if your vehicle breaks down on a freeway, pull into the emergency stopping lane or onto the nature strip. Switch on your hazard lights, stay well away from traffic lanes. Be very careful when you re-enter the traffic flow. Remember to give way to all traffic and indicate for at least 5 seconds before moving out onto the road.

### 3.12.2 Entering a freeway

Before getting on the freeway:

- be sure that your vehicle is roadworthy, has more than enough fuel for the journey, and that any load is secure;
- plan your journey in advance – know your entry and exit points before getting on the freeway;
- adjust your speed as you drive along the entry ramp;
- make sure you are not entering the freeway at a sharp angle;
- drive your vehicle so that you merge smoothly with other traffic; and
- be sure to clearly signal your intentions. You need to indicate right before and while you are merging to the right or indicate left before and while merging to the left. Remember to turn off your indicator when the merge is complete.



### 3.12.3 Appropriate speeds for freeway driving

Freeways are designed for higher speed traffic flow than that allowed on standard roads. You must not exceed the speed limit indicated on signs.

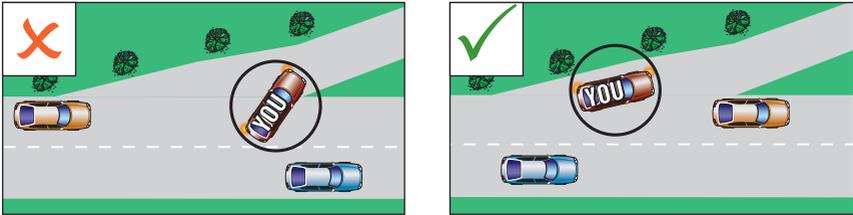
***Driving too slowly can cause dangerous situations on a freeway, so you are required to travel at a speed that is no more than 20 km/h below the posted speed limit (unless traffic, weather or visibility conditions prevent you from doing so).***

That is, if the speed limit is 100km/h, you are not allowed to travel slower than 80km/h (unless the road, weather, visibility, traffic and other conditions require you to travel slower).

### 3.12.4 Leaving the freeway

Select the correct lane for your destination well in advance of the exit and also indicate your intention to leave the freeway well in advance. When safe to do so, move gradually but positively into the exit lane.

Slow down as you are entering the exit ramp and adjust your speed so that you are prepared for driving in suburban or city conditions beyond the 'END OF FREEWAY' sign.



### 3.12.5 What you must not do on a freeway

When driving on a freeway, you must not:

- enter the Bus or Bus/Taxi lane (unless you are authorised to do so);
- stop unnecessarily;
- reverse your vehicle, or make a 'U' turn;
- stop on the median strip, nature strip or emergency stopping lane (except in an emergency or to help another disabled vehicle);
- ride a moped, bicycle or animal;
- drive a tractor (other than a prime mover); or
- carry an oversize load.

***Pedestrians and cyclists are not allowed on freeways except on paths.***

## 3.13 Intersections

Intersections can be very dangerous places – so be careful.

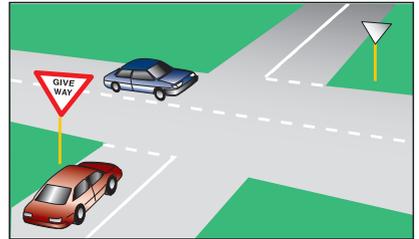
There are different types of intersections and for each type there are rules which help to reduce the danger. Know the rules, stay alert and drive at a safe speed.

### 3.13.1 Controlled intersections

A controlled intersection is an intersection that has:

- traffic control signals;
- a 'STOP' or 'GIVE WAY' sign;
- a roundabout; or
- a police officer or other authorised person directing traffic.

**At an intersection controlled by traffic control signals** be prepared to stop if the light changes to yellow or red.



**At an intersection controlled by a 'GIVE WAY' sign**, give way to all traffic travelling along or turning from the intersecting road.

**At an intersection controlled by a 'STOP' sign**, you must stop your vehicle and give way to all traffic travelling along or turning from the intersecting road.

You will notice a line marked across the road before the intersection where there are 'STOP' signs. You must stop at the line.

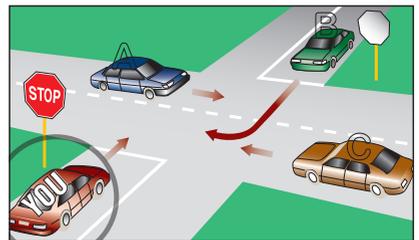
*If for some reason you have to stop back from the 'STOP' line, you must stop again as close as you can before the line when you move forward.*

If there is no line, stop as close to the intersection as practicable but before entering it.

Give way to all traffic coming from the left or right, including turning vehicles.

YOU must give way to Car A and Car C. Car B must give way to YOU, Car A and Car C.

**When a Police officer or an authorised person is directing traffic**, take your directions from that person. Their directions overrule traffic control signals and signs. If their back is towards you, you must stop your vehicle and wait for instructions before driving on.



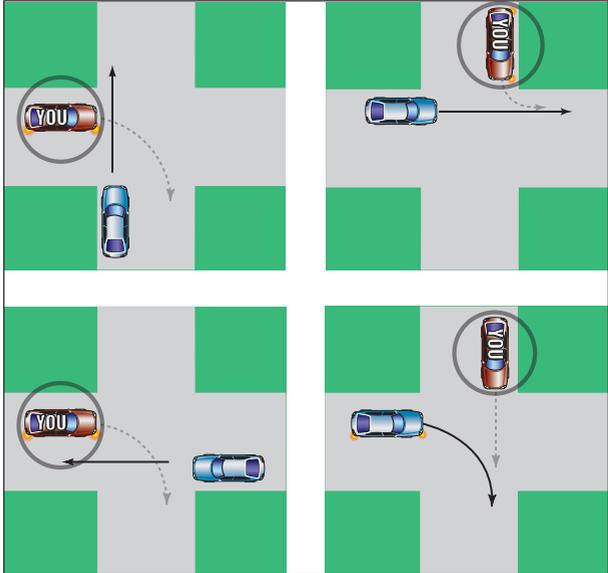
### 3.13.2 Uncontrolled intersections

Uncontrolled intersections are those without:

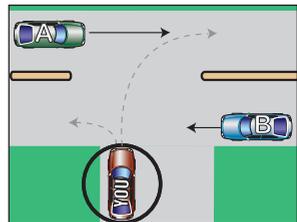
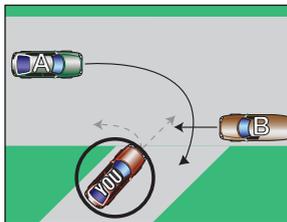
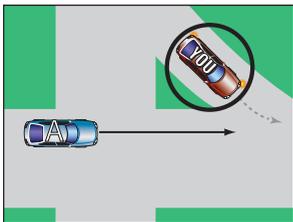
- traffic control signals, a 'GIVE WAY', or 'STOP' sign, or roundabout; or
- a police officer or authorised person directing traffic.

The rules for uncontrolled intersections that help to make them safer are:

- at a four way intersection YOU must give way to the car on your right, whether you are turning or going straight ahead;



- at a three way intersection YOU must give way to Car A and Car B that are travelling on or turning from the continuing road;

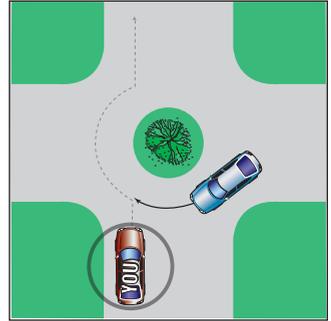


- If you are turning right at **any** uncontrolled intersection YOU must also give way to oncoming traffic travelling towards you or turning left.

### 3.13.3 Roundabouts

At a roundabout, YOU must:

- give way to all traffic already on the roundabout;
- enter only when there is an adequate and safe gap in the traffic; and
- always travel in a clockwise direction.



### 3.13.4 Keep intersections clear

Do not enter an intersection when a queue of traffic prevents you from fully exiting on the other side.

Stop before you enter the intersection so that you do not block crossing traffic.

In the diagram, YOU must stop before the intersection. This allows vehicles such as Car A to cross the road.



## 3.14 Turning

Turning in front of oncoming traffic is dangerous. Always ensure that the turn can be made safely, without interfering with the progress of oncoming vehicles. While waiting to turn across traffic, keep your wheels in the 'straight ahead' position. This is because if you happen to be struck from behind, you will not be pushed across into the path of oncoming traffic.

### 3.14.1 When to indicate/signal your intention to turn?

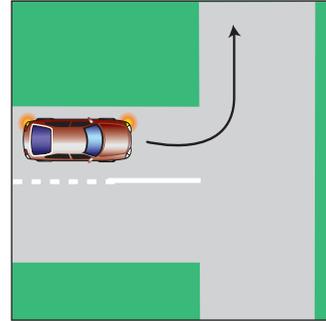
***Indicate/signal for a sufficient distance prior to turning or diverging left or right to warn other drivers and pedestrians of your intentions.***

Make sure you give as much warning as possible. What is a sufficient distance depends on the circumstances. If you are travelling at high speed, a sufficient distance may be several hundred metres.

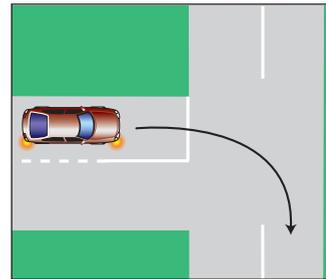
### 3.14.2 Turning

The rules when making a turn are as follows:

- turning vehicles must give way to pedestrians;
- when turning **left** you must:
  - indicate/signal before you turn and move close to the left side of the road;
  - when 'turning lanes' are marked, move into the lane marked for left turns;
  - look out for cyclists and give way to them if you are crossing a bicycle lane or shoulder of the road;
  - give way to pedestrians and turn only when it is safe to do so; and
  - keep close to the left of the road after turning.



- when turning **right** you must:
  - indicate/signal before you turn;
  - when lanes are not marked, move as close as possible to the left of the centre of the road and turn to the right of the centre of the intersection;
  - when turning right into a multi-lane carriageway (where turning lanes are not marked) the driver can enter the carriageway in any lane that is to the left of the centre of that carriageway, provided it can be completed without interference to other traffic;
  - on a one-way street, turn from the right side of the road unless there are turning lanes marked that allow alternate turning; and
  - give way to pedestrians and turn only when it is safe to do so.



### 3.14.3 'U' turns

You must not make a 'U' turn:

- unless the turn can be made safely and without interfering with the movement of other traffic;
- if there is a 'NO U TURN' sign;
- at traffic control signals (unless there is a 'U TURN PERMITTED' sign); or
- on a freeway.

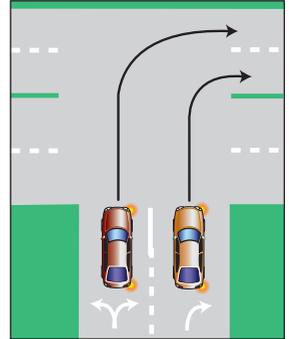
Remember, when making a 'U' turn, the correct procedure is to:

- look in your rear view mirror;
- indicate/signal your intentions;
- check for following traffic by glancing over your shoulder; and
- turn only if it is safe to do so.

### 3.14.4 Turning at a multi-lane intersection

When turning at a multi-lane intersection:

- move into the correct lane early, do not change lanes at the last moment;
- do not cross unbroken lane lines (unless you are driving a vehicle 7.5 metres long or longer and you cannot turn from within a single lane);
- be in the correct position on the roadway before the intersection; and
- if you are in a lane marked with an arrow, you must go in the direction of the arrow.



Remember, turn only when you can see clearly – large vehicles such as buses, trucks and vans may block your view of approaching traffic.

## 3.15 Changing Lanes

A high percentage of crashes occur when vehicles change lanes. This is because drivers changing lanes are often not aware that another vehicle is already in the lane into which they wish to move.

To change lanes safely you should:

- check your internal and external mirrors;
- indicate/signal to change lanes for a sufficient distance to warn other drivers of your intentions before beginning your manoeuvre (the higher the speed the greater the indicator/signalling distance you must give);
- glance over your left or right shoulder to make sure there is not another vehicle in your blind spot;
- check for other drivers who may also be moving into the lane;
- give way to vehicles already in the lane you are entering;
- never change lanes while going through, or approaching an intersection; and
- never change lanes where the line between lanes is a continuous line.

If someone ahead of you indicates/signals that they wish to change into your lane be courteous and let them in.

## 3.16 Overtaking

*Overtaking other vehicles is one of the most dangerous driving manoeuvres. Only overtake when it is safe to do so. If you are not sure, wait.*

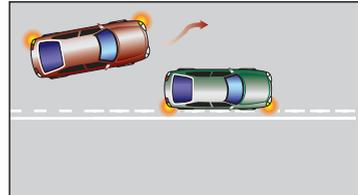
You must not exceed the speed limit to overtake. You must not cross continuous lines to overtake (where the line is a single continuous line, continuous line on the left of a broken line, or double continuous lines).

### 3.16.1 When can you overtake?

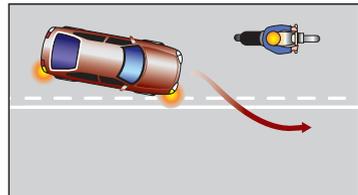
You can overtake a vehicle on the left only when:

- you are directed to do so by a police officer or other authorised person;
- you are on a multi-lane road and it is safe to do so; and
- a vehicle is indicating/signalling that it is turning right. You can also overtake any vehicles that are stationary behind it.

You can overtake a vehicle on the right when you are both travelling in the same direction and it is safe and legal to do so.



Overtake a vehicle on the left

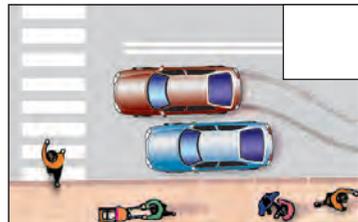


Overtake a vehicle on the right

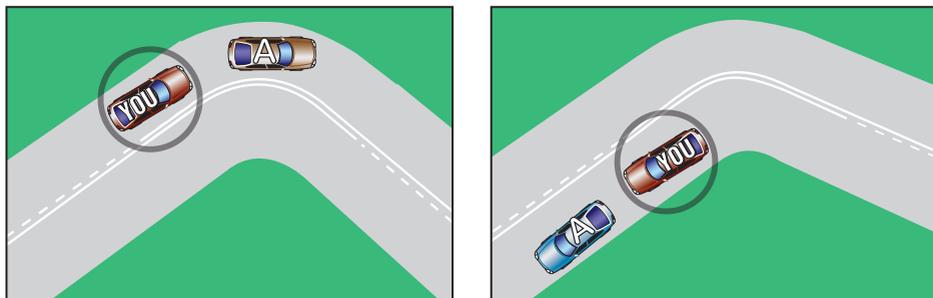
### 3.16.2 When you must not overtake

You must not overtake another vehicle when:

- it has slowed down or stopped at a railway, pedestrian or children's crossing;
- it has stopped at an intersection (unless the driver signals that they are turning left or right) and it is safe to do so;
- there is a 'NO OVERTAKING' sign; and
- you are nearing a blind bend or the crest of a hill, or you do not have a good view of the road ahead.



You must not cross single continuous dividing lines or continuous dividing lines on your side of broken lines or double continuous dividing lines, to overtake another vehicle.



In the diagrams above, YOU may not overtake Car A.

### 3.16.3 How to overtake

To overtake safely you must:

- **get a good view of the road ahead.** Make sure you have plenty of time and space to return safely to the correct side of the road after overtaking;
- **look behind and to the side of you.** Before overtaking, check your mirrors and glance over your shoulder (to check your blind spots), another vehicle may be overtaking you;
- **indicate/signal for a sufficient distance before you pull out to overtake;**
- **keep to the speed limit.** You must not exceed the speed limit when overtaking another vehicle; and
- **move back into line.** You must ensure you are safely clear of the vehicle(s) you have overtaken and signal your intention to return to the correct side of the road before you do so.

### 3.16.4 What to do when you are being overtaken

*You should move to the left to allow plenty of clearance for the overtaking vehicle.*

Remember, you must **not**:

- increase your speed until the overtaking vehicle has completely passed you; or
- drive in a way that prevents a vehicle from overtaking or passing you.

### 3.16.5 Large and oversize vehicles

Vehicles 7.5 metres long and longer need to make wide turns – so be careful when you are travelling near a large vehicle that is turning or negotiating a roundabout. Do not overtake once the driver has signalled an intention to turn. They may cut the corner, when they are turning at an intersection and before they turn they are also legally allowed to cross over a continuous lane line leading up to the intersection.

Here are a few other tips for when you encounter a large vehicle or one carrying an oversize load on the road:

- generally, they need more space than a car when stopping, so be courteous and avoid overtaking and then cutting in at traffic signals, roundabouts and other locations where traffic queues occur;
- they accelerate slowly, so be patient, as the driver has to move through many gears to get going; and
- when a large vehicle is turning on to the road you are on, keep back from the intersection as it will require more road space to make the turn.

Truck drivers and drivers of other large vehicles have a difficult task when reversing, so give them plenty of room to move.

**REMEMBER:** *If you can't see the driver's side mirrors, the driver can't see you.*

#### A guide to overtaking large vehicles:

- be patient, take your time and stay back several car lengths without crossing the centre of the road;
- when you see that it is safe to pass - indicate/signal, move out, accelerate and overtake quickly and positively, keeping in mind the road, visibility, weather conditions and speed limit;
- use your left indicator when you are about to return to the left side of the road;
- after overtaking, maintain your speed. Do not overtake and then cut in and slow down. This forces the other driver to brake and lose momentum;
- allow for on-coming vehicles – they may be travelling faster than you think. Only overtake when the road ahead is clear – waiting a few seconds could save your life;
- never attempt to overtake a truck or other large vehicle on a curve or hill where visibility is limited, even when the vehicle is moving slowly;
- make good use of overtaking lanes to overtake trucks and other large vehicles;
- be ready for the wind buffeting you as you pass; and
- be extra careful after dark.

### **Passing an oversize vehicle accompanied by a pilot vehicle coming from the opposite direction:**

- many oversize vehicles are accompanied by a pilot vehicle. The pilot vehicle has two rotating yellow lights and warning signs on its roof;
- pilot vehicles usually travel at a distance in front of the oversize vehicle to warn approaching drivers. Slow down and remain at a slow speed until the oversize vehicle passes or stop if directed to do so by the driver of the pilot vehicle;
- cooperate with the driver of the pilot vehicle when he or she signals you to move over. The oversize vehicle may need to be in the centre of the road; and
- if you move off the bitumen, reduce speed and watch for guide posts that may indicate a deep culvert. Be especially careful if the edge of the road is wet.

### **Passing an oversize vehicle from behind:**

- passing an oversize vehicle is potentially dangerous. If there is only one pilot vehicle, it will be in front of the oversize vehicle and the driver will not be able to see you at the rear. Be patient and wait for a safe opportunity to pass. Usually the oversize vehicle will periodically pull over and stop to allow traffic to pass;
- if there is also a rear escort vehicle, you should take directions from the person driving that vehicle. Drivers of pilot vehicles are 'authorised traffic wardens – you must obey their lawful directions; and
- if you have a CB radio in your vehicle, it can be helpful to talk to the pilot or escort vehicle driver to find out if it is safe to pass. Use UHF channel 40.

*(The above information has been provided by Main Roads WA.)*

## **3.17 Stopping**

***There are places where stopping a vehicle in a number of places can be dangerous to the driver and passengers of the vehicle, to other vehicles or to pedestrians.***

You must not stop in a number of places such as:

- in intersections or within 10 metres of an intersection (unless signs allow you to stop);
- within 20 metres of the approach side and 10 metres of the leaving side of a pedestrian or children's crossing;
- between another stopped or parked vehicle and the centre of a road;
- in bus lanes, bus/taxi lanes or bicycle lanes;
- within one metre of a fire hydrant or fire plug;
- within 20 metres of the approach side and 10 metres of the leaving side of a bus stop;

- within 20 metres of a railway crossing;
- on a bridge or in a tunnel;
- within 3 metres of a letter box;
- on a median strip or path;
- in CLEARWAYS during the times shown on the signs;
- on Freeways (except in an emergency or you have broken down or helping someone who has broken down - in which case you must stop in the emergency stopping lane or on the nature strip);
- where there are 'NO STOPPING' or 'NO STANDING' signs or a single yellow line along the edge of the road. ('NO STANDING' is the same as 'NO STOPPING'); or
- on the road on crests or curves where the vehicle is not visible to an overtaking driver for at least 50 metres in a 'built-up' area or 150 metres outside a 'built-up' area.



### 3.18 Parking

To 'park' means to permit the vehicle to remain stationary whether the vehicle is attended or not - except for the purpose of avoiding conflict with other traffic, complying with another law, or picking up or setting down passengers or goods (for a maximum of 2 minutes).

Before you park your vehicle, ask yourself:

- is it safe to park here;
- is it legal; and
- will it cause trouble to other road users.



#### 3.18.1 Where you must not park

You must not park your vehicle, or any part of your vehicle anywhere stopping is not permitted as indicated in Part 3.17 or in the following places:

- in front of a right-of-way, passage or private driveway;
- in a 'NO PARKING' area (except for up to 2 minutes to pick up or put down goods or passengers); or
- in parking bays for people with disabilities. (Bays marked with the international symbol shown in the diagram are reserved for holders of a current ACROD parking permit). Misuse of these bays can result in a fine.



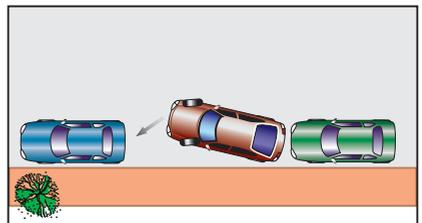
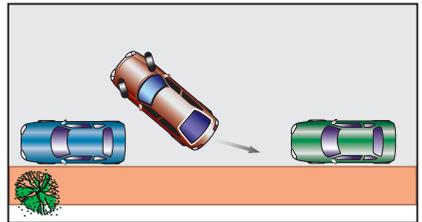
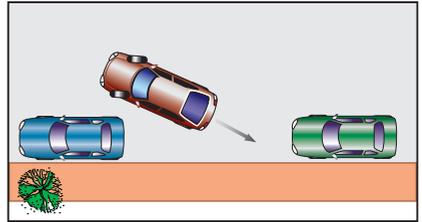
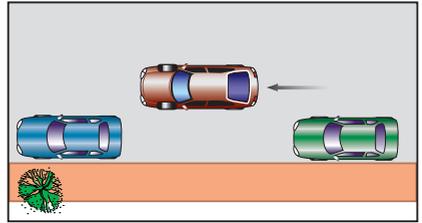
### 3.18.2 How to park

Before you move into a parking place:

- check for traffic behind you;
- slow down; and
- give correct signals.

Always apply the park brake, remove the ignition key and lock the doors when you leave your vehicle.

When parking in a two-way street, you must park close to, and parallel with, the left boundary of the street. Unless signs indicate otherwise, you may park on either side in a one-way street.



#### When parking in a confined space:

- pull alongside, and parallel to, the car you wish to park behind;
- reverse very slowly;
- steer sharply to the left, until your car is nearly on a 45 degree angle to the kerb. Your left front door should now be opposite the rear bumper of the car in front;
- when your front bumper is clear of the rear bumper of the car ahead, turn your steering wheel fully to the right and continue reversing; and
- straighten your wheels and move forward to the correct position.

#### Before reversing:

- use caution and reverse no further than necessary. Remember, it is an offence to reverse when it is unsafe, or for a greater distance than is reasonable; and
- make sure that all is clear behind you.

### When parking on a hill:

- apply the park brake:
  - if you are driving a vehicle with automatic transmission, select 'PARK' (P); or
  - if you are driving a vehicle with manual transmission, select the gear which is opposite to the slope of the hill (that is, if you are facing uphill, select 'first' gear, if you are facing downhill, select 'reverse' gear).

It is usually a good idea to turn your wheels towards the kerb so that if it does move the kerb will help stop the vehicle. After you park, you should look out for traffic, especially cyclists, and wait until it is safe before you open the door. If there is too much traffic, it may be safer to get out on the side of the vehicle away from the traffic

### Before pulling out from a parking spot:

- make sure you are in the correct gear;
- do not allow the vehicle to roll back; and
- check for other traffic, indicate/signal for at least 5 seconds and then drive off smoothly into a safe gap in traffic.

## 3.19 Clearways

Clearways are sections of roads where you cannot stop vehicles during certain times of the day or night. Clearways allow the traffic to flow more easily during peak traffic periods.

### How do you know which roads are clearways?

Clearways are marked by a special sign: a large white 'C' on a red shield or on a parking meter.

### When can you park?

The times stated on signs tell you when you cannot park. This is usually during the morning and/or evening peak traffic periods.

### What happens if you park when you are not supposed to?

Parking your vehicle in a clearway will slow down the traffic flow. The penalties for doing so are high and can include heavy fines or your vehicle being towed away.





# PART 4

## Emergencies & Incidents

## 4.1 MOTOR INJURY INSURANCE

The Insurance Commission of Western Australia (Insurance Commission) runs the Motor Injury Insurance Scheme in Western Australia and has since 1943. Over that time, the Insurance Commission has assisted 100,000 injured motorists, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists paying over \$7 billion.

Motor injury insurance is compulsory so people injured in motor vehicle crashes are able to claim compensation if the crash was caused by the actions of another party.

Motor Injury insurance applies to all vehicles upon licensing, making it convenient and effective for you to insure your vehicle and yourself against liability for personal injury caused to third parties.

### 4.1.1 What does your Motor Injury Insurance cover?

A) The cost of personal injury and death caused to others in Australia by any driver of the licensed vehicle, which includes compensation for:

- pain and suffering;
- past and future economic loss;
- claims management expenses; and
- care and support (including medical treatment and rehabilitation).

B) The cost of necessary and reasonable care and support (including medical treatment and rehabilitation) for catastrophic injuries incurred by;

**You** - if no other driver in the crash is negligent; and

**Others** - if no driver in the crash is negligent,

resulting from a motor vehicle crash in Western Australia involving the licensed vehicle after the introduction of the expanded motor injury insurance cover.

### 4.1.2 What is not covered by your Motor Injury insurance?

- The cost of damage caused to vehicles or other property from a motor vehicle crash.
- The cost of non-catastrophic injuries where no other driver is negligent in the crash.

The above cover is subject to the provisions of the relevant legislation. Full details of the insurance policy and conditions are available at: [icwa.wa.gov.au](http://icwa.wa.gov.au)

### Your obligations

You must report all motor vehicle crashes causing injury or death to the Insurance Commission and Western Australia Police via the Online Crash Reporting Facility, available at: [crashreport.com.au](http://crashreport.com.au).

You or any driver of the licensed vehicle must not:

- use the vehicle for any other purpose not stated in your vehicle licence application;
- drive the vehicle in an unsafe or damaged condition;
- drive the vehicle if under the influence of intoxicating liquor or illegal drugs; and
- drive the vehicle without the appropriate driver's licence.

If you breach these obligations, the Insurance Commission may pursue you for repayment of the total compensation costs paid to an injured third party as a result of your negligence.

### 4.1.3 Cost of Cover

Motor injury insurance premiums are set based on the vehicle class of the motor vehicle and the claims experience for that class.

When licensing your vehicle, you will be asked to identify the class based on the type of motor vehicle you drive and the primary purpose for which it will be used.

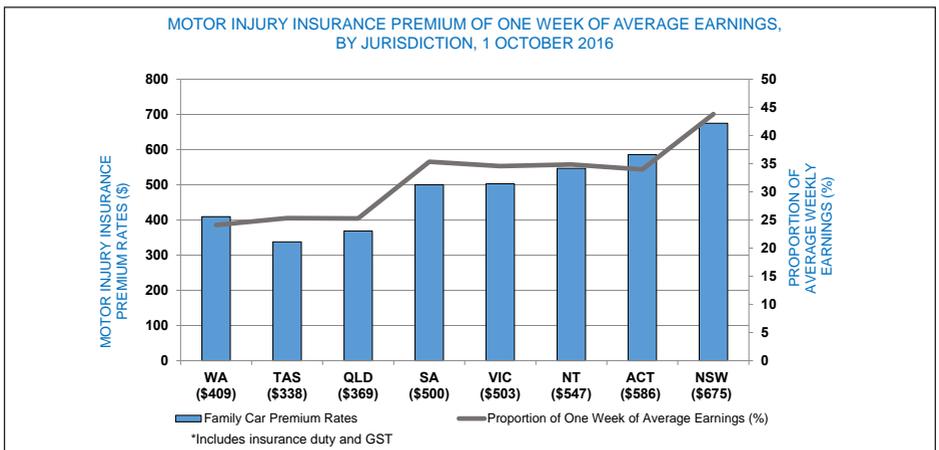
The Premium Schedule on the website of the Insurance Commission details the cost of motor injury insurance for each of the 20 registered vehicle classes in Western Australia.

The Insurance Commission reviews insurance premiums each year based on independent actuarial advice, actual and estimated claims experience and a fully-funded insurance model.

Western Australia has one of the most cost effective motor vehicle personal injury insurance schemes in Australia.

Please refer to the website of the Insurance Commission for further information on motor injury insurance, [www.icwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.icwa.wa.gov.au)

The graph below shows the WA CTP premium for a family car at 1 October 2016, and is inclusive of the expanded motor injury insurance.



The previous chapters have provided advice that can help avoid emergencies. It is vital that you study and learn that information and apply it whenever you are driving or riding a motor vehicle. This part is a guide to what you should do if you are involved in a crash or other emergency situation.

#### 4.1.4 How to Handle Emergencies

You must not use the horn or any other warning instrument on your vehicle, except in an emergency or to prevent injury to a person or property.

##### 4.1.5 Breakdown on the road

*Approach a broken-down vehicle or crash scene with caution, but do not allow yourself to be distracted from the road.*

Look out for pedestrians at the scene.

If your vehicle develops engine trouble and begins to slow, move to the left as far as possible from traffic.

If your vehicle breaks down on the road in an exposed position:

- activate the hazard warning lights immediately;
- have passengers leave the vehicle when it is safe to do so and keep them well clear of traffic;
- if possible, avoid working on the traffic side of your vehicle;
- you may place a hazard warning triangle to the side of the road or a traffic lane. Within a 'built-up' area, place the triangle up to 50 metres away. Outside 'built-up' areas or on high-speed roads, place it up to 200 metres away. When walking to place the triangle, hold it in front of you to alert drivers to the hazard. Hold it behind you when you collect it and return to your vehicle. If you are driving a heavy vehicle (more than 12 tonnes), you must use these triangles if your vehicle is broken down at night on a road outside 'built-up' areas;
- if you have a bright, reflective safety vest – wear it; and
- during an on-road emergency use a CB radio 'road channel' to alert approaching traffic, particularly heavy vehicles.

Emergency assistance may sometimes be reached via the government allocated CB radio 'Emergency Channel 9 (on HF) or 5 (on UHF). Try both simplex and duplex.

#### 4.1.6 Tyre blow-out (rapid puncture)

A **front wheel puncture** will pull your vehicle in the direction of the puncture. For example, if the puncture is in the right front tyre, the vehicle will be pulled to the right. A **rear wheel puncture** will tend to cause your vehicle to swerve from side to side.

If a puncture occurs:

- keep a firm grip on the steering wheel;
- do not oversteer to correct any swerve or pull;
- take your foot off the accelerator;
- once you have gained better control of the car, gently apply the brakes;
- slow down, pull over to the side of the road, and stop in a safe spot; and
- if your car is fitted with hazard lights, switch them on.

#### 4.1.7 A stuck accelerator

If you release the accelerator pedal to reduce speed and the car continues at the same speed or accelerates, your accelerator is stuck. If this happens:

- depress the clutch, or in an automatic vehicle, select 'NEUTRAL' ('N');
- apply firm pressure on the brakes without locking the wheels;
- find a safe place to pull off the road and stop;
- stop and then turn off the ignition; and
- if your car is fitted with hazard lights, switch them on.

#### 4.1.8 Brake failure

If you push the brake pedal down and the car does not slow down or stop, you are experiencing brake failure. If this happens:

- it may help to pump the brake pedal hard and fast;
- move to a lower gear whether you are driving a manual or an automatic vehicle;
- gently apply the handbrake;
- if necessary, use your horn and/or flash your headlights to warn other drivers;
- move to the side of the road;
- carefully stop the vehicle using the handbrake; and
- if your car is fitted with hazard lights, switch them on.

#### 4.1.9 Possible head-on collision

Another vehicle is speeding towards you and a head-on collision seems likely. If this happens:

- brake firmly without skidding, while flashing your lights and sounding your horn;
- give the oncoming vehicle all the room you can;
- look for an avenue of escape; and
- prepare for further evasive action, including pulling off the road if necessary.

#### 4.1.10 Forced on to the gravel

If you have been forced on to the gravel edge of a road, don't rush to get back on to the road, instead:

- keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and drive in a straight line; and
- slow down and check traffic before you enter the road again.

#### 4.2.1 Bonnet flies up

If your bonnet flies up while you are driving:

- slow down;
- look through the gap under the hinge of the bonnet or use side windows to retain a view of the road; and
- brake smoothly to a stop, pulling off the road as soon as possible.

#### 4.2.2 Shattered windscreen

If your windscreen shatters while you are driving:

- slow down; and
- pull over to the side of the road as soon as possible.

#### 4.2.3 Stalled on a railway crossing

*If you hear or see a train coming, leave the car immediately.*

**Do not risk your life or those of your passengers trying to save your car.**

If no trains are coming:

- make one or two attempts to re-start the engine, but be careful not to flatten the battery;
- if you are unable to re-start the engine, get out of the car and seek help to push your vehicle off the track;

- if your car has a manual transmission, you may be able to move it off the track by trying this procedure:
  - put the car in first or reverse gear;
  - release the clutch and take your feet off all the pedals; and
  - turn the key to, and hold it in, the start position (the car should move enough to get you off the track); and
- if your car has an automatic transmission, select 'NEUTRAL' ('N') and try to push it off the track.

#### 4.2.4 Car fire

Most vehicle fires are caused by a short circuit in the electrical system. If this happens:

- slow down and stop and turn off the ignition;
- get any passengers out of the car and away from the fire;
- if the fire is beyond control, move away – petrol may cause an explosion;
- if you have an appropriate extinguisher, use it to put out the fire;
- if you do not have an extinguisher, try to extinguish the flames with a thick cloth or garment, sand or dirt;
- try to isolate and remove the cause. Disconnect the battery quickly if possible. If this is not practicable rip loose any burning wires with a handy instrument;
- **NEVER** touch burning wires or insulation with your bare hands; and
- call for help.

#### 4.2.5 Skids

A skid occurs when your car's wheels lock and the car is being dragged along by its own momentum. When this happens, you lose steering control. The only way to regain control of the car is to stop the skid.

##### What causes skids?

A skid does not just happen. It is almost always the result of a driver's actions, such as:

- sudden or excessive braking;
- harsh acceleration;
- coarse or uncontrolled steering; or
- excessive speed.

***Skids are dangerous at all times, but certain conditions can make them even worse.***

For example:

- poor car maintenance, such as bald tyres and low tyre pressure; and
- road conditions – water, oil or sand on the road can make it slippery.

### **The ABC of avoiding skids.**

You are unlikely to have much time or space to correct a skid. A clear understanding of the causes of skidding will help you to avoid them. Adjust your speed to suit driving conditions and always remember the **ABC** of skid prevention:

- **A**ccelerate gently;
- **B**rake gently; and
- **C**orner gently.

## **4.2.6 Post Crash Management**

A crash is something you will try to avoid. However, should you be involved in one, you must know what to do.

If you are involved in a crash:

- stop immediately;
- help anyone who has been injured but before doing so, check that your actions do not put yourself or others in danger. Send someone for help if required;
- give your name, address and number plate to the owner or driver of the other vehicle. If property has been damaged, give the owner of the property your particulars as well;
- if someone has been injured, report the crash to the Insurance Commission of Western Australia. You can do this by telephoning 9264 3333 (in Perth) or, if you are in the country, you can ring 1800 643 338. Otherwise the crash can be reported online at [www.crashreport.com.au](http://www.crashreport.com.au). Provide the name and address of all drivers, number plates of all vehicles, time, date and location of the crash; and
- if any injury has occurred, or if there is more than \$3,000 damage done to vehicles and/or property (in total), or if the owner of the damaged property is not present, you **MUST** report the crash to the police.

***If you are involved in a crash where someone has been injured you must stop immediately and help. If you do not stop, the penalties are very severe.***

You could be imprisoned, lose your licence, be fined or accrue demerit points.

If you are removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a road, you must also remove any glass or other destructive, injurious or dangerous substance or item that has fallen on the road from that vehicle.

If the driver of the vehicle is injured, the person who removes the vehicle from the road is responsible for removing any dangerous or loose material.

## What to do if you need a tow after an accident.

It is an offence for a tow truck operator to force, trick, threaten or pester a person to sign up for a tow.

- Phone your insurance company telling them the car needs towing; ask for the name of the tow company and driver the insurer is sending.
- Don't be fooled by operators who say they can tow for anybody; they can legally, but they may not be the preferred tower and you could be leaving yourself open to outrageous fees. If a tow driver is a nuisance ask police to intervene.
- Not insured? Make sure the tow driver gives you a cost and writes you an invoice before signing. The cost of the tow is just the start of charges. There are additional fees like storage fees and excess kilometres.

Police can also decide a driver involved in an accident is too injured or traumatised to authorise towing, in which case police can assign the job.

## 4.2.7 First Aid

When someone is injured, the first few minutes after a crash are vital. Until trained help arrives, your knowledge of first aid may save a life. An injured person may have life-threatening injuries, such as a blocked airway or severe bleeding.

Consider undertaking a first aid course so you are prepared to help at the scene of a crash.

Remember the St John Ambulance Action Plan, **DRSABCD**:

- **D**anger;
- **R**esponse;
- **S**end;
- **A**irway;
- **B**reathing;
- **C**PR; and
- **D**efibrillation.

### Danger

Check whether there is any danger to yourself first, then bystanders and then the injured person. If possible:

- Position your car to protect the crash scene;
- Switch on hazard warning lights or indicators;
- Send someone to warn approaching traffic;
- Secure the damaged vehicle by turning off the ignition and putting on the handbrake;
- Prevent others from smoking near the crash site; and
- Stay away from fallen power lines, especially if close to or touching the damaged vehicle.

***Do not move injured people unless they are in danger.***

## Response

1. Check whether the injured person is conscious or unconscious;
2. If conscious, talk to them and reassure them. Check for injuries and treat; and
3. If there is no response, send for help and then check their airway.



## Send for Help

- Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance; or
- If there is a bystander present ask this person to make the call.



## Airway

Airway management has the highest priority.

It is essential to ensure that the airway is open and clear so that breathing is possible.

1. Open the airway by lifting the chin and tilting the head back;
2. Open mouth to look inside for foreign material e.g. vomit, fluid, broken teeth; and
3. If foreign material is found, clear the airway using your fingers remove any vomit, fluid or broken teeth.



## Breathing

1. Check for normal breathing for up to ten seconds by looking for chest movement, listening for breathing and feeling for breaths. Gasping for breath is not normal breathing.
2. If the person is breathing normally, monitor their breathing, manage injuries and treat for shock.
3. If the injured person is not breathing normally, start CPR.



**If the injured person is unconscious and trapped in the car, you can still perform CPR by tilting the seat back as far as possible to allow for better access and positioning yourself to give CPR.**

### CPR = Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CPR is the process of giving 30 chest compressions followed by two breaths. You would expect to achieve five sets of 30 chest compressions and two breaths in about two minutes.

### Signs of life = breathing normally, responsive and moving.

If the person is not breathing normally (a gasp is not normal breathing), responding or moving, begin CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation).

#### *Giving chest compressions*

With the injured person on their back, give 30 chest compressions:

- Locate the lower half of the injured person's breastbone and place the heel of one hand, the other on top, to push the breastbone down one third in depth. **Repeat for 30 chest compressions.**



#### *Giving breaths*

- Give two breaths by tilting the head with a chin lift, pinch the nose, cover the injured person's mouth with your own and breathe.

- Only stop CPR if the injured person begins to breathe normally and is responsive, more qualified help arrives, or you are physically unable to continue.

If you are unwilling or unable to perform breaths, compression-only CPR will be better than not doing CPR at all.

## Defibrillation

A defibrillator is used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. If a defibrillator is available, apply the defibrillator and follow the voice prompts.

Recommence CPR when instructed by the voice prompt. Continue CPR until more qualified help arrives. If the person starts breathing normally, place them in the recovery position. Do not remove the pads; do not turn the defibrillator off. Continue to check the person's breathing and be prepared to begin CPR again.

## Moving an injured person

Unless absolutely necessary, do not move an injured person until medical aid arrives.

Moving an injured person unnecessarily may lead to further injury. If the injured person's life is endangered (e.g. risk of an explosion, fire, gas, electrical), remove the person from the scene by the quickest and safest means available, regardless of injuries or the manner in which removal must be made.

If head, neck or spinal injuries are suspected, support the head and neck in a neutral position before carefully moving.

***Remember, airway and breathing always take precedence.***

## Stay with the patient

If it is safe to do so, stay with the injured person, and do not leave them alone. This is particularly important if the person is in shock.

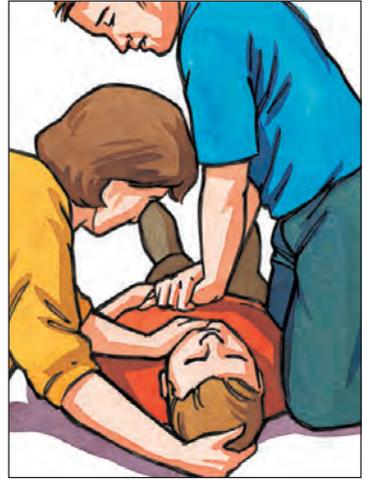
If you are the only person on the scene and need to seek help, place a breathing unconscious person in the recovery position, if possible. This assists their breathing.

***Always continue to monitor their airway and breathing.***





- give 30 compressions followed by two effective breaths;



- continue compressions until trained help arrives.

#### 4.2.9 When the injured person is bleeding

To stop external bleeding (any visible bleeding from a wound):

- apply direct pressure to the wound. Use whatever is available, for example, your hands or an item of clothing;
- if you have a cloth, use it to make a pad and cover the wound, then bandage it;
- never remove the original dressing. This will only disturb the clot that is forming. If bleeding continues, put more pads over it; and
- if pieces of metal, glass or wood are found in the wound apply pressure to the surrounding areas but do not remove object. If a broken bone is protruding apply pressure to the wound edges only.



If the person is bleeding from the ear, lay them on their side (bleeding side down) with a pad under the ear.

If the person is bleeding from the nose, apply direct pressure on the soft lower part of the nostril, sit the injured person up and lean the head forward.

#### 4.2.10 Rest and reassure the injured person

Do not make the injuries worse by moving the person unnecessarily. However, there are times when you must move them.

Move the casualty only if:

- They are in danger, such as from fire or traffic;
- Their position makes it impossible to give first aid; or
- They are unconscious and breathing normally and must be placed in the recovery position.

Do not leave the injured person alone, unless you are the only person on the scene and need to seek help. If you need to leave an injured person that is unconscious and breathing normally, place them in the recovery position then seek help. On your return, check airway and breathing and continue to monitor until medical aid arrives.

Consider learning first aid to help you in case of an emergency. Visit the St John Ambulance website for more information: [www.stjohnambulance.com.au](http://www.stjohnambulance.com.au).

CLICKTOSAVE is a free interactive online first aid course. Go to [clicktosave.com.au/](http://clicktosave.com.au/)  
(This information has been provided by St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Inc).



#### 4.3.1 Emergency Vehicles

You can identify an emergency vehicle by its siren or its red and/or blue flashing lights.

The types of vehicles that are used in emergencies are:

- police cars;
- fire engines;
- ambulances; and



- vehicles used to convey blood or other supplies for a person urgently requiring treatment.

**What should you do when there is an emergency vehicle in your immediate vicinity?**

- do not panic;
- check where the emergency vehicle is coming from and give way to it;
- move as far as to the left of the road if you can; and
- if you cannot move left, slow down or stop. Let the emergency vehicle drive around you.

***It is an offence not to give way to an emergency vehicle.***

**Please do the right thing – look, listen and merge left.**

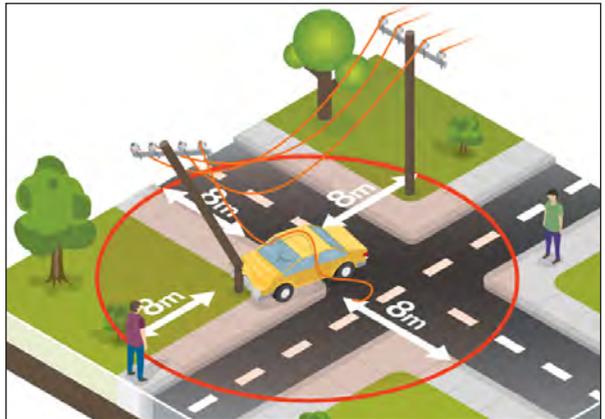
### 4.3.2 Contact with electrical infrastructure

**A fallen powerline or broken streetlight is extremely dangerous.**

■ **If you have a car accident involving electrical infrastructure (e.g. a power pole, powerline, streetlight, green dome, etc.) keep yourself and passengers safe by following these steps:**

1. Always assume the powerline (or electrical infrastructure) is live and extremely dangerous.
2. Stay in the car unless you have no choice but to leave (e.g. the car is on fire).
3. Call emergency services on 000 and Western Power on 13 13 51.

4. Remain in the car until help arrives.
5. Tell any witnesses to stay at least eight meters away from the car and all electrical infrastructure.



■ **If you have no choice but to leave the car (e.g. it is on fire), it is crucial you follow these steps to minimise risk of electrocution:**

1. Open the car door and prepare to jump in a way that ensures no part of your body touches the car and the ground at the same time.
2. Jump clear from the car landing with your feet together.
3. Either jump with your feet together or use short shuffle steps until you are at least eight metres away from the car, fallen pole and or powerline.
4. Make the safe call to Western Power's 24/7 emergency line on 13 13 51 as well as calling any other relevant emergency services.
5. Tell any witnesses to stay at least eight meters away from the car and all electrical infrastructure.

A Western Power emergency vehicle will attend the site and ensure it is safe for other emergency services to treat injuries and investigate the scene.

### 4.3.3 Aggressive Driving or Behaviour

Aggressive driving includes the following types of behaviour:

- a person driving alongside you, shouting or making obscene gestures, pointing and demanding that you pull over;
- another vehicle following too closely (tailgating you);
- the driver in front slowing down in an attempt to force you to stop;
- a driver flashing headlights and/or sounding the horn continuously; or
- a person getting out of a vehicle and approaching you in a threatening manner.

#### Minimising risk

You can reduce the risk of being confronted by an aggressive driver if you:

- drive in a courteous manner;
- are aware of what is happening around you;
- avoid cutting in front of other drivers;
- slow down to allow a vehicle to move into your lane;
- do not drive too close to the car in front; and
- keep well clear of a vehicle being driven in an erratic or unsafe way.

#### Protecting yourself

If another driver acts aggressively or abusively, you should:

- keep calm and remain in control of your actions;
- make sure that all of your windows are up and your doors are locked;
- aim to distance yourself from the other vehicle;
- if another vehicle follows you, drive to the nearest police station or public place where there are people;
- record the number plate, colour, make and model of the offending driver's vehicle; and
- remain courteous and tolerant toward the other driver and try to diffuse the situation.

#### Reporting aggressive driving or behaviour

If you witness, or are involved in an aggressive driving incident, call the police as soon as possible on 9222 1111.

(Modified from information provided by the Royal Automobile Club of WA Inc.)



# PART 5

## The Law & You

**The Western Australian Road Laws and regulations impose obligations on drivers and penalties on those who commit traffic offences.**

## **5.1 Change of Address or Name**

### **5.1.1 Change of address**

If you hold a driver's licence, or have a vehicle licensed in your name, and you change your address, you must notify the Department of Transport (DoT) within 21 days. You can do this by fax (1300 669 995), by post (to GPO Box R1290, PERTH WA 6844), or online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

**When notifying a change of address, please include:**

- your driver's licence number and plate numbers of ALL vehicles licensed in your name (including cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers and caravans). Also include details of any boat licences and Recreational Skippers Ticket you hold;
- your full name;
- your date of birth; and
- your current and previous residential address.

You will be forwarded a change of address label that should be attached to the back of your drivers licence document (card).

Please note: Firearm licence holders must lodge a change of address with WA Police at [www.police.wa.gov.au](http://www.police.wa.gov.au).

### **5.1.2 Change of name**

If you hold a Western Australian driver's licence or have a vehicle licensed in your name and you change your name, you should notify the DoT as soon as practicable. This must be done in person at a Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or DVS agent (locations of DVS centres are on the inside of the front cover).

You will need to provide documentary proof of your previous and current identity.

You will need to provide one Category A document (appendix 4) such as your birth certificate and documentary evidence of your new name, such as a marriage certificate or change of name certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. All documents presented must be original documents. Documents copied and certified as true copies will not be accepted.

If you require further information in relation to the documentary evidence required to change your name please contact DVS on 13 11 56.

## 5.2 Traffic Infringement Penalties

There are a variety of penalties that can be imposed on drivers who commit traffic offences. They include fines, licence sanctions (such as demerit points and suspension or cancellation) and in some cases imprisonment. Penalties can be imposed by Courts or by infringement notices. The penalties imposed by infringement notices are usually much less than can be imposed by a Court. Not all traffic offences are subject to infringement notices. However, infringements include fines and sometimes demerit point penalties:

- **fines** are imposed for a range of traffic offences which are often significant; and
- certain traffic offences attract **demerit points** in addition to fines.

You may also be disqualified from driving without incurring demerit points – for example;

- if you are convicted of a drink or drug related driving offence;
- if you offend repeatedly; or
- if you have a provisional licence, and are convicted of certain traffic offences. (You will be required to re-apply for your licence when the disqualification period has finished and may be required to undertake further assessments).

## 5.3 Demerit Points

### 5.3.1 Demerit Points Scheme

The Demerit Points Scheme is a national program that is currently in place in all Australian jurisdictions. Demerit points are a form of penalty that may be imposed for a range of driving offences. The amount of demerit points that are accrued will range dependent on the offence, and if you accumulate too many it will result in the suspension of your driver's licence.

### 5.3.2 Full Licence Holders

Under the provisions of the *Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Act 2008*, a person who holds a full licence (not a Novice Driver) who accrues 12 or more demerit points within a 3 year period is liable to a disqualification from holding or obtaining a driver's licence.

Demerit points are always recorded against a person not a driver's licence. The recording of demerit points on the DoT demerit point register will always reflect the date the offence was committed, not the date the points were placed on the register. The offence date is important, as it determines which demerit point's count towards the 12 point limit.

The length of the disqualification period is determined by the number of points accrued within the 3 year period.

If you accumulate more than 12 demerit points in a 3 year period the length of the disqualification period increases, as shown below.

<b>Demerit points accrued</b>	<b>Disqualification period</b>
12 to 15	3 months
16 to 19	4 months
20 or more	5 months

If you accrue 12 or more demerit points you will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence. Your disqualification period will begin 28 days after the service of an 'Excessive Demerit Points Notice'. If you are ineligible or you choose not to elect a 'Double or Nothing' good behaviour period (see next section) you will be required to surrender your licence card at a DVS centre or regional DVS agent prior to the disqualification taking effect. Failure to comply with this requirement may render you liable for a penalty.

On a double demerit point long weekend or prescribed holiday period the demerit point/s attached to many offences are doubled.

For more information about demerit point penalties see Appendix 3 – Penalties for Traffic Offences section.

### **5.3.3 Double or Nothing (Good Behaviour Period)**

'Double or Nothing' is an option where eligible drivers who have accrued 12 or more demerit points can elect a Good Behaviour Period (GBP). To elect a GBP you must first be served with an Excessive Demerit Points Notice (disqualification notice). By electing the Double or Nothing option a person commits to driving for a period of 12 months without committing any further driving offences.

However, if a driver accrues more than one demerit point during the 12 month Good Behaviour Period or if they commit an offence which results in a disqualification period, they will be disqualified for double the original disqualification period.

By electing to undertake the Double or Nothing option drivers will not be disqualified from driving, which would normally happen when accruing 12 or more demerit points. Although the licence holder can continue to drive, for the next 12 months they must not commit any further driving offences.

All Western Australian driver's licence holders can elect to undertake the Double or Nothing option, unless:

- They do not hold a current WA driver's licence;
- They hold a provisional driver's licence;
- Their licence is already disqualified;
- Their licence is invalid for any other reason; or
- Their licence is under fines suspension. (If the fines are paid to clear this suspension within the 21 day election deadline a driver may elect to drive on Good Behaviour Period.)

### **Important notes:**

- The Double or Nothing option replaces the disqualification period associated with the demerit points that have been accrued.
- The Double or Nothing (Good Behaviour Period) is for a 12 month period.
- Committing a driving offence during the Good Behaviour Period will result in a breach period which is double the original disqualification period.
- Eligible drivers have 21 days from when they are served the Excessive Demerit Points Notice to elect to continue to drive by taking the 'Double or Nothing' option. Once the 21 days has lapsed, a driver cannot make an election to take the 'Double or Nothing' option.
- Persons who have been disqualified from driving for demerit point offences can no longer apply for an Extraordinary Licence. If a person is currently driving on an Extraordinary Licence and they get a subsequent demerit point disqualification they can still elect the 'Double or Nothing' option. However, the Good Behaviour Period will be postponed until the disqualification period related to the grant of the Extraordinary Licence has expired.

#### **5.3.4 Graduated Demerit Point System (Novice Drivers)**

A Novice Driver Graduated Demerit Point System has been introduced, which means all Novice Driver's are subject to reduced demerit point limits. The demerit point limit applied to Novice Drivers is dependant on the length of time a person has held a Driver's Licence (see Novice Driver Types below).

The Novice Driver Graduated Demerit Point System was developed to encourage inexperienced drivers to adopt good driving practices. Research shows that infringements and convictions received as a Novice Driver are good predictors of future crash involvement and that the most effective time to motivate drivers to develop safe driving behaviours is when they first gain a driver's licence.

Essentially, influencing driver behaviour at an early stage of the driving experience will help Novice Drivers to develop safe driving practices that they will keep with them throughout their driving life.

To find out more about the Graduated Demerit Point System please visit:  
[www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

#### **Novice Drivers**

For the purposes of the Novice Driver Graduated Demerit Point System a person is a novice driver until they have held a drivers licence for a period of two years, or periods adding up to two years. This may include:

- a first time learner's permit holder;
- the holder of a provisional driver's licence;
- a driver from overseas who has not held a driver's licence for at least two years; or
- the holder of an extraordinary driver's licence.

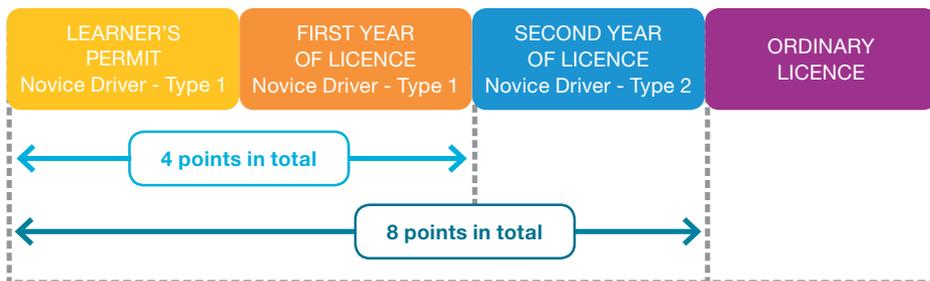
## Novice Driver Types

There are two types of novice drivers.

- Novice Driver Type 1 (4 demerit point limit) - A person is a Novice Driver Type 1 until they have held a driver's licence for a period of one year or periods adding up to one year. A Novice Driver Type 1 also includes first time Learner's Permit holders and persons who have never held a driver's licence. These drivers will be disqualified from driving for a minimum of three months if they accrue four or more demerit points as a Type 1 Novice Driver.
- Novice Driver Type 2 (8 demerit point limit) - A person who has held a driver's licence for at least one year, but less than two years or periods adding up to two years will be disqualified from driving for a minimum of three months if they accrue a total of eight or more demerit points as a Type 2 Novice Driver.

### How do I know which limit applies to me?

The below table shows when the different demerit point limits apply.



If a Novice Driver exceeds the demerit point limit they will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for a minimum period of three months. Holders of a provisional licence will have their licence cancelled and will need to re-apply for a new licence once the disqualification period has expired, this includes taking another Computerised Theory Test and Practical Driving Assessment. Holders of a Learner's Permit will not have their permit cancelled but will still be disqualified for three months.

**Note: if you are disqualified for exceeding the demerit point limit you will not be eligible to apply for an Extraordinary Licence and you will not be able to elect the Double or Nothing option (i.e. drive on a 'good behaviour period').**

On a double demerit point long weekend or prescribed holiday period the demerit points attached to many offences are doubled. This means it will be very easy for a Novice Driver to exceed the lower demerit point limits and be disqualified. If you are disqualified for exceeding your demerit point limit you will not be able to lawfully drive at all, even if it is critical for work or study.

You can find out how many Demerit Points you have accrued by ringing the automated Demerit Point Hotline on 1300 720 111 or online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

Further information on double demerit point periods can be found at the Office of Road Safety website at [www.ors.wa.gov.au](http://www.ors.wa.gov.au).

## 5.4 Regulations for Your Car

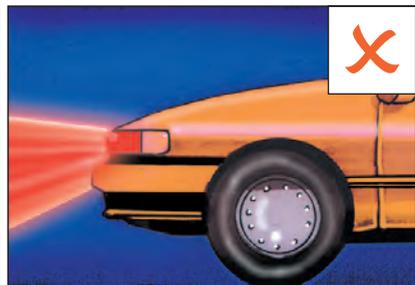
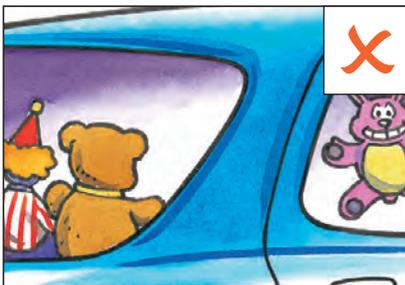
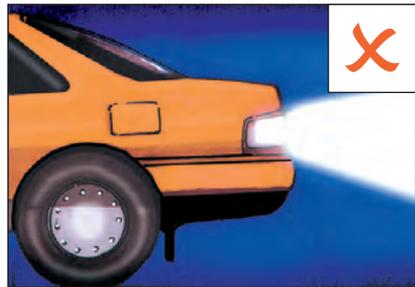
Your car must have the equipment shown overleaf.

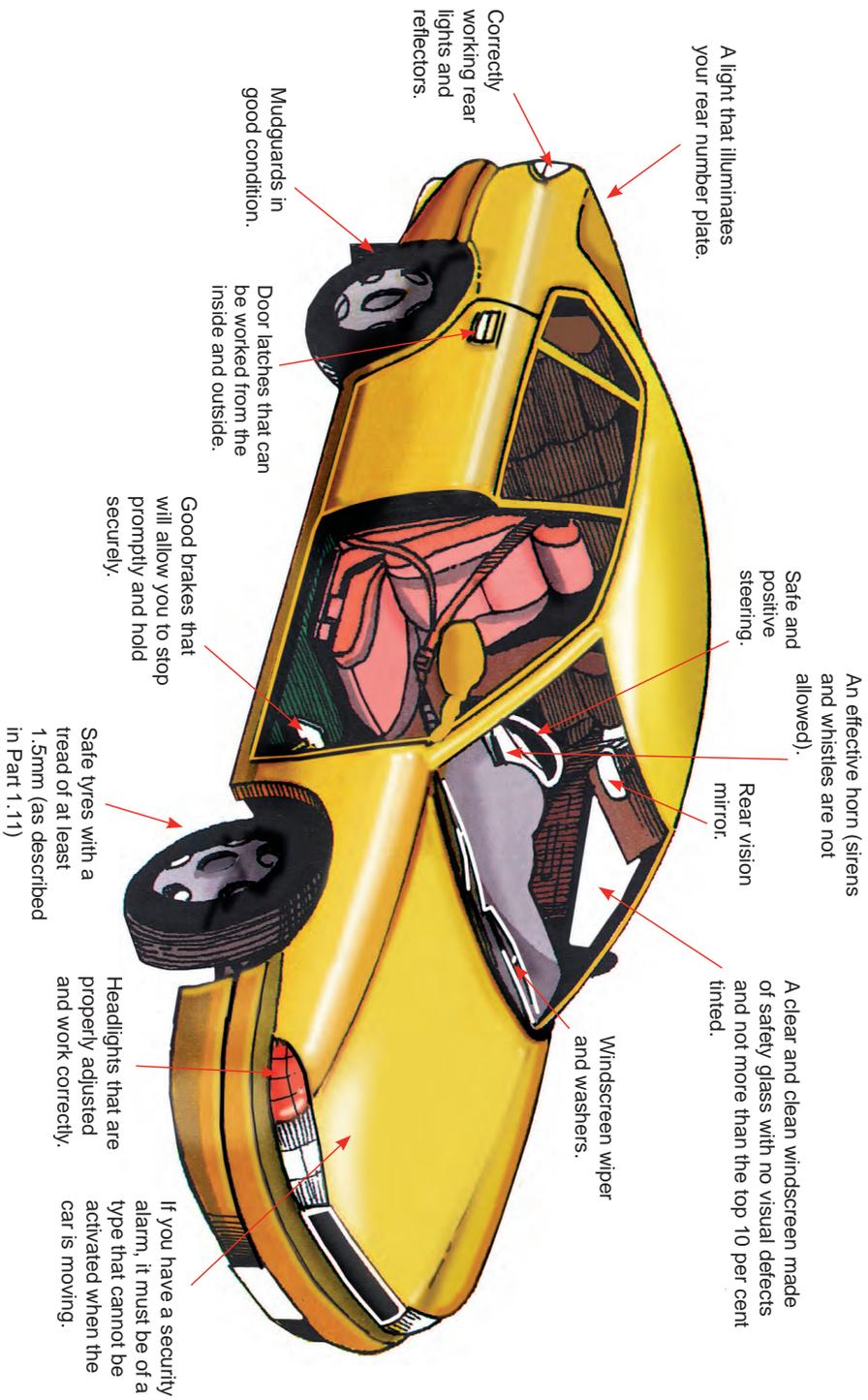
Your car may have a hand-held spot lamp or search lamp that may be lit only when:

- the vehicle is stationary;
- the lamp is being used for examining or making adjustments or repairs to the vehicle;
- the light from the lamp is projected not more than six metres from its source;
- the vehicle is outside a built up area; or
- it is used only for the purpose of reading a road sign.

**Your car must not have:**

- any ornament or fitting which may cause injury in a crash;
- any toy or mascot attached to the windows, windscreen, rear view mirror, dash panel or any other part of the vehicle, that may obstruct the driver's view or cause distraction in any way;
- any light (except reversing lights and number plate lights) shining to the rear of the vehicle that is not red or amber; or
- any red light showing to the front.





A light that illuminates your rear number plate.

Correctly working rear lights and reflectors.

Mudguards in good condition.

Door latches that can be worked from the inside and outside.

Good brakes that will allow you to stop promptly and hold securely.

Safe tyres with a tread of at least 1.5mm (as described in Part 1.11)

An effective horn (sirens and whistles are not allowed).

Safe and positive steering.

Rear vision mirror.

A clear and clean windscreen made of safety glass with no visual defects and not more than the top 10 per cent tinted.

Windscreen wiper and washers.

Headlights that are properly adjusted and work correctly.

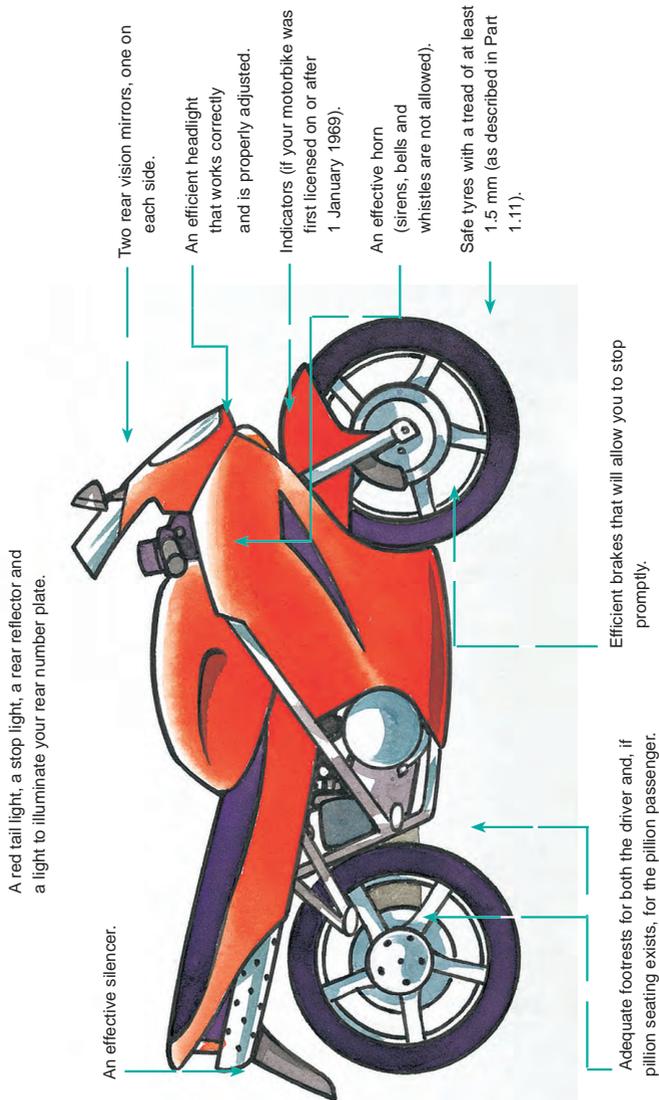
If you have a security alarm, it must be of a type that cannot be activated when the car is moving.

## 5.5 Regulations for Your Motorcycle

Your motorcycle must have the equipment shown in the diagram below.

**Your motorcycle must not have:**

- any ornament or fitting that may cause injury in a crash;
- any lights (except indicators) shining to the rear that are not red; or
- any red light showing to the front.



## 5.6 Regulations for Your Trailer or Caravan

You must not drive a vehicle with an insecure load.

**Your trailer or caravan must have:**

- the correct coupling;
- at least one safety chain for vehicles up to 2.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (ATM) and two safety chains for vehicles between 2.5 and 4.5 tonnes ATM. The chains must be cross-hitched so that the trailer or caravan will still be secure if the coupling breaks;
- rear lights and reflectors;
- a light that illuminates the rear number plate;
- side lights – if the vehicle is more than 2.1 metres wide; and
- a braking system (for example, override brakes) if the gross trailer mass is between 750 kg and two tonnes and a breakaway braking system if the trailer or caravan is over two tonnes gross trailer mass.

Brakes are not required to be fitted if the trailer, caravan or plant trailer has a gross trailer mass less than 750 kg.

Ensure your car is fitted with good exterior mirrors so you can clearly see behind you when towing a trailer or caravan.

***No one is allowed to ride in a semi-trailer, trailer or caravan while it is being towed, unless the trailer has been approved and licensed for the carriage of passengers and is being driven in accordance with any conditions imposed.***

### Towing Limits

Towing limits for vehicles are determined by the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

Simply stated, the regulations mean that:

**The loaded mass of the trailer you are towing must not exceed whichever is the lesser of:**

- the towing capacity of your vehicle's towing apparatus (as specified by the component manufacturer); or
- the maximum loaded mass of a trailer that may be towed by your vehicle (as specified by the vehicle manufacturer).

Where manufacturer's specifications of the vehicle are not known, then the maximum weight that can be towed is either 1.5 times the loaded mass of the vehicle (if the trailer has brakes) or, if the trailer has no brakes, the weight is limited to the unloaded mass of the vehicle.

## 5.7 Towing Another Vehicle

Unless a vehicle is being towed by a licensed recovery vehicle or tow truck, a licensed driver must be in charge of the towed vehicle.

If you are towing another vehicle, the space between the two vehicles must be less than four metres. If the vehicle being towed is a motorcycle, the space must be 2.5 metres or less.

The towing connection must be secure and safe.

***If the rope, chain or wire used to tow the vehicle is longer than 2 metres you must attach a flag or suitable marker to the rope, chain or wire to ensure that it is clearly visible.***

The towing capacity approved by the vehicle manufacturer for a particular vehicle and the regulatory towing limits must not be exceeded.

You may only tow a vehicle at night if it is equipped with appropriate lighting and the lights are on.

The use of 'A' frame trailers require approval from the DoTs Vehicle Safety Branch. Please call 13 11 56 to apply for approval.

## 5.8 Horse and Animal Traffic

If you are driving a horse-pulled cart at night, you must have the appropriate lights fitted to the vehicle.

If you are riding an animal, you are not allowed to lead more than one additional animal.

If you are in a motor vehicle, you are not allowed to lead an animal. You must not tie an animal to a motor vehicle to exercise it in any way.

You cannot drive cattle or sheep along a road in a town without written permission from the DoT.

Be courteous when approaching and passing people on horseback.

Do not sound your horn or accelerate, as this may frighten the horse.

If you see livestock on the road ahead, slow down and be prepared to stop.



# PART 6

## Cycle Safe

## 6.1 Cyclists

Cyclists have an equal right to use the road as other vehicles. They share the same rights and responsibilities as drivers and motorcyclists. They may legally use the whole lane on roads with lane markings and are allowed to ride two abreast (side-by-side). Share the road with them and allow plenty of room.

Bicycles are smaller than other vehicles, and people on bicycles can be difficult to see, especially at night, dusk or dawn.

When the speed limit is 60km/h or under, motorists **must** leave a gap of at least 1m between their vehicle and the bicycle riders when passing. When the speed limit is over 60km/h, the gap must be at least 1.5m.

Young riders are particularly unpredictable and you should take extra care when you are sharing the road with a child on a bicycle.

People riding bicycles are vulnerable users of our road system and warrant special consideration. Cyclists can reach speeds of over 55 km/h, so take care not to underestimate the speed of cyclists, especially when they are approaching an intersection or when you are turning across their path.

***Under-estimating a cyclist's speed is one of the most common causes of crashes between motor vehicles and people on bicycles.***

When you are about to leave your vehicle, check behind you for bicycles. If you cause a crash by opening your door in front of them you can cause severe injuries and legally you may be to blame.

If you are intending to turn left at the next intersection and a person riding a bicycle is riding in front of you, slow down and allow the person to either turn left or go through the intersection ahead of you. Do not cut across in front of a person riding a bicycle.

When driving at night, remember that your lights on high beam can dazzle people cycling and walking. Dip your lights when approaching or overtaking a cyclist at night.

Do not sound your horn at someone cycling except where necessary for safety reasons. Generally it startles the rider and may cause the rider to swerve and possibly cause a collision. If a bicycle rider decides to ride on the road when there is a shared path available, give the rider enough clearance.

***Further information is available below:***

<http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/activetransport>

<http://www.ors.wa.gov.au>

### 6.1.1 Cyclists and the law

When riding a bicycle, you are required to abide by all the rules and regulations that govern the drivers of other vehicles. These include traffic control lights, 'STOP' and 'GIVE WAY' signs, signals, and keeping to the left etc.

#### Cycling on Footpaths

All-age cycling on footpaths is now legal in WA. Please see the frequently asked questions online at <https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Road-Rules/Browse/Cyclists> for further information.

The rules and regulations that apply to cyclists only, include:

- riders and any passenger in a child-carry seat or trailer must wear an approved helmet correctly fastened at all times;
- do not ride a bicycle on any portion of a freeway or on a highway that has signs banning cycling (for example, sections of the Roe and Tonkin Highways);
- when riding on a shared path, keep to the left and do not ride abreast of another bicycle unless overtaking;
- when riding on a shared path, give way to pedestrians;
- another vehicle or bicycle must not tow your bicycle;
- when riding a bicycle, you must ride astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle, and you must have at least one hand on the handlebars; and
- do not carry, at any one time, more people than the number for which the bicycle is designed and equipped.

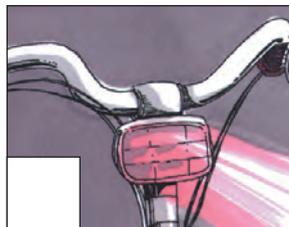
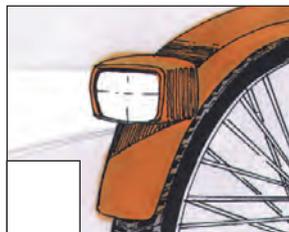
If a traffic control signal does not change after your bicycle has waited for several minutes, use the pedestrian crossing button to register your presence. This will usually cause the signals to change.

#### When riding at night, your bicycle must have:

- a white front light (visible up to 200 metres ahead);
- an unobstructed red light at the rear (visible up to 200 metres to the rear); and
- a red reflector that is clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of a bicycle when lit up by a following vehicle's headlights.

#### Your bicycle must not have:

- a red light shining to the front; or
- any light except red shining to the rear.



## 6.1.2 Cyclists Safety

### Wear a helmet

*It is compulsory to wear an Australian Standards approved helmet.*

Many serious road injuries and deaths suffered by cyclists are due to head injuries. A correctly fitted, approved helmet will reduce your chances of death or serious injury, should you be involved in a crash.

### Child-carrying seat

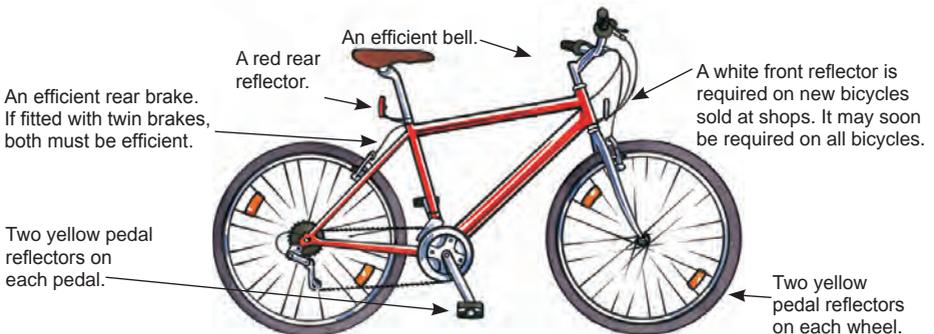
Any child-carrying seat on a bicycle must be securely attached to the frame, without sharp edges. It must have guards to prevent fingers and toes being trapped in moving parts. When a child is being carried in a child-carrying seat, the rider must be at least 16 years of age.

**For your own enjoyment and safety, also follow these important points:**

- make sure your bicycle is correctly equipped;
- a shared path is a path that is designated by signs for use by both cyclists and pedestrians. While cyclists are not legally required to use them, they are sometimes safer to use than roads. Cyclists must keep left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths;
- when riding at night, wear light coloured clothing. During daylight hours, vivid coloured clothing and/or helmet can help to attract motorists' attention;
- ride your bicycle in a predictable manner. Never change direction without first looking behind and to each side. Use hand signals to let other road users know of your intention to change direction; and
- avoid cycling on roads that carry large volumes of high-speed vehicles unless an appropriate cycle lane or sealed shoulder has been provided.

## 6.1.3 Equipment for your bicycle

Your bicycle must have the equipment shown in the diagram.





# **PART 7**

## Appendices

# Appendix 1 -

## Driver Licence Authorisations and Eligibility

The Western Australian driver's licence authorisations and eligibility requirements are:

### R-N (Moped)

You can be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive R-N class vehicles at 16. If you are authorised to drive an R-N class vehicle you may ride any moped.

A moped is defined as a motorcycle which has a propelling engine with a capacity not exceeding 50cc and which is designed so as to be capable of a speed not exceeding 50 km/h, whether or not it is also capable of being propelled as a pedal cycle, but does not include a power assisted pedal cycle. You can apply for a moped learner's permit at age 15 years and six months.

### R-E (LAMS approved motorcycle)

If you are authorised to drive R-E class vehicles you may ride any:

- motorcycle (with or without a side car) that is listed in the publication LAMS Approved Motorcycles list published on the Department of Transport website at [www.transport.gov.au/LAMS](http://www.transport.gov.au/LAMS); and
- LAMS approved motor carrier.

### R (Motorcycle)

You can be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive R class vehicles, you must have held a licence that authorises you to drive R-E (Motorcycle) class vehicles for at least one year. If you are authorised to drive R class vehicles you may ride any:

- motorcycle with, or without, side car attachment; and
- any motor carrier.

### C (Car – unrestricted)

You can be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive C class vehicles at 17. If you are authorised to drive C class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, that has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of 4.5 tonnes or less;
- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, equipped to seat not more than 12 adults (including the driver); and
- moped.

### **C-A (Car with Automatic Transmission)**

You can be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive C-A class vehicles at 17. If you are authorised to drive C-A class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle with automatic transmission, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, that has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of 4.5 tonnes or less;
- motor vehicle with automatic transmission, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, equipped to seat not more than 12 adults (including the driver); and
- moped (automatic).

### **LR (Light Rigid Vehicle)**

To be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive LR class vehicles you must have held a licence that authorises you to drive C (car) class vehicles for at least one year. If you are authorised to drive LR class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, with a GVM exceeding 4.5 tonnes but not exceeding 8 tonnes;
- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, not exceeding 4.5 tonnes that is equipped to seat more than 12 adult (including the driver);
- C (car) class motor vehicle; and
- moped.

### **MR (Medium Rigid Vehicle)**

To be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive MR class vehicles you must have held a licence that authorises you to drive C (car) class vehicles for at least one year. If you are authorised to drive MR class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, that has 2 axles and a GVM exceeding 8 tonnes
- LR (Light Rigid) class vehicle;
- C (car) class vehicle; and
- moped.

An MR class motor vehicle may be used to tow one trailer (not a semi-trailer) that has a GVM not exceeding 9 tonnes, and no other trailer.

### **HR (Heavy Rigid Vehicle)**

To be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive HR class vehicles you must have held a licence, that is not provisional, that authorises you to drive C (car) class vehicles for at least two years, or a licence that authorises you to drive LR or MR class vehicles for at least one year.

If you are authorised to drive HR class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, that has at least 3 axles and a GVM exceeding 8 tonnes;
- MR (Medium Rigid) class vehicle;
- LR (Light Rigid) class vehicle;
- C (car) class vehicle; and
- moped.

A HR class motor vehicle may be used to tow one trailer (not a semi-trailer) that has a GVM not exceeding 9 tonnes, and no other trailer.

### **HC (Heavy Combination Vehicle)**

To be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive HC class vehicles you must have held a licence, that is not provisional, that authorises you to drive C (car) class vehicles for at least three years AND a licence that authorises you to drive MR or HR class vehicles for at least one year.

If you are authorised to drive HC class vehicles you may drive any:

- motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle or motor carrier, that is attached to a semi-trailer or trailer that has a GVM exceeding 9 tonnes;
- HR (Heavy Rigid) class vehicle;
- MR (Medium Rigid) class vehicle;
- LR (Light Rigid) class vehicle;
- C (car) class vehicle; and
- moped.

A HC class motor vehicle may be used to tow one, but no more than one, trailer in addition to the trailer or semi-trailer if the additional trailer has a GVM not exceeding 9 tonnes or is an unladen converter dolly or low loader dolly.

### **MC (Multi-Combination Vehicle)**

To be granted a driver's licence authorising you to drive MC class vehicles you must have held a licence that authorises you to drive a HR or HC class vehicle for at least one year.

If you are authorised to drive MC class vehicles you may drive any:

- heavy combination unit towing one or more additional trailers with a GVM exceeding 9 tonnes;
- HC (Heavy Combination) class vehicle;
- HR (Heavy Rigid) class vehicle;
- MR (Medium Rigid) class vehicle;
- LR (Light Rigid) class vehicle;
- C (car) class vehicle; and
- moped.

## Appendix 2 - Driving in Western Australia whilst holding an Interstate or Overseas Driver's Licence

### Interstate Drivers

If you are a visitor to Western Australia with a valid driver's licence issued by your home state/territory you are not required to obtain a Western Australian (WA) driver's licence, unless you have been usually resident in WA for a period exceeding 3 months.

If you are required to obtain a WA driver's licence you may be issued a WA driver's licence free of charge. You will not be required to sit a theory test or undertake a practical driving assessment. The new WA driver's licence granted will be valid to either the expiry date of your interstate licence or up to a maximum of five years.

You are only authorised to drive on your interstate licence for as long as it remains valid, and you must comply with all conditions endorsed on your licence whilst driving in WA.

You must carry your licence document with you while you are driving and produce that document for inspection at the request of any Police Officer.

### Overseas Drivers

If you are a visitor to WA with a driver's licence or permit to drive issued by your country of residence, you are not required to obtain a WA driver's licence. You can drive on the licence or permit for as long as it remains valid.

You must carry your licence or permit with you while driving, and comply with any conditions endorsed on your licence document. If your licence is written in a language other than English then your licence must be accompanied by an approved translation. An overseas permit to learn to drive is not recognised in WA, so you will not be able to drive on WA roads.

The authorisation to drive in WA on an overseas licence will cease when:

- Your overseas licence expires or is disqualified.
- You hold a permanent visa issued under the *Migration Act 1958* of the Commonwealth and you have usually resided in Western Australia for three months since the granting of the visa.

## Applying for a WA driver's licence

You must be at least 17 years old to obtain a WA driver's licence. Your application process will depend on whether your driver's licence was issued in a 'recognised', 'experienced driver recognised' or 'non-recognised' country.

Certain overseas countries have assessing standards that are recognised by WA and may allow holders of those licences to be exempt from theory or practical driving assessments when applying for the grant of a WA driver's licence.

To find out if your licence has been issued by a 'recognised', 'experienced driver' recognised or 'non-recognised' country please visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

Any person applying for the grant of a WA driver's licence must produce evidence of their identity & place of residence (Appendix 4).

Holders of non-English driver's licences must produce an approved translation along with their current valid driver licence. Translations will only be accepted from:

- the appropriate Consulate; or
- accredited Translator, Advanced Translator or Advanced Translator (Senior) level translators approved by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI).

*Note: Faxes and photocopies of licence documents are NOT acceptable.*

## Appendix 3 - Penalties for Traffic Offences

The following is a guide to the penalties for some of the most common traffic offences. Drivers should be familiar with all traffic laws and a copy of the relevant rules and regulations can be viewed online at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au) or purchased from the State Law Publisher.

The value of a Penalty Unit is \$50 (NOTE: These penalties are reviewed from time to time. They are correct at date of publication.)

### Alcohol Related Offences

#### Immediate Disqualification Notices

Drivers who commit certain drink driving offences may be served a disqualification notice and will be immediately disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for a period of 2 months. Immediate disqualification notices can be served on a driver for the following offences:

- Driving or attempting to drive with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of, or above 0.08. That is, a BAC equal to or greater than 0.08 but not more than 0.14.
- Driving or attempting to drive under the influence of alcohol. That is, driving with a (BAC) equal to or greater than 0.15.
- Failure to comply with requirement as to provision of breath or blood sample for analysis.

A driver who is served an immediate disqualification notice and who is charged with one of the drink driving offences listed above, will still have their charges heard in Court and will, if convicted, also receive a Court imposed disqualification period.

#### Drivers who are subject to zero BAC

Dependant on the nature of an alcohol related offence, drivers who are subject to a zero BAC may be issued with an infringement notice, or may be prosecuted and have the matter dealt with by a Court. See section 1.3.3 to locate information on persons who are subject to a zero BAC when driving.

Novice drivers with a (BAC) equal to, or exceeding, a limit of 0.02 per cent during the first two years of holding a driver's licence will automatically have their licence cancelled. For all other licence holders subject to zero BAC the disqualification period will only result in a licence suspension.

**Table 1 - Zero BAC, first and subsequent offences**

BAC Per Cent	Penalty			
	Infringement	Minimum	Maximum	Disqualification Period
0.00 < 0.02	\$100	\$150	\$150	Nil-Demerit Points Only
0.02 < 0.05	-	\$150	\$300	3 months minimum disqualification

## Other Licence Holders

Penalties for holders of a driver's licence other than novice drivers or provisional licence holders who exceed the BAC limit are as follows:

**Table 2 - Infringement and Court penalties: First offence 0.05 < 0.08 BAC only**

BAC Per Cent	Penalty			
	Infringement	Maximum Court penalty	Disqualification period	Demerit Points*
0.05 < 0.06	\$250	\$500	Nil	3
0.06 < 0.07	\$250	\$500	Nil	4
0.07 < 0.08	\$250	\$500	Nil	5

**Table 3: Court Penalties: 0.05 - ≥ 0.15 BAC**

BAC	Penalty Type	1st Offence	2nd Offence	Subsequent* Offence	
0.05 < 0.07	Minimum	See table 2	\$500	\$500	
	Maximum		\$1,000	\$1,000	
0.07 < 0.08	Disqualification	See table 2	6 months	8 months	
	Minimum		\$600	\$600	
0.08 < 0.09	Maximum	See table 2	\$1,000	\$1,000	
	Disqualification		8 months	10 months	
0.09 < 0.11	Minimum	See table 2	\$600	\$600	
	Maximum		\$1,500	\$1,500	
0.11 < 0.13	Disqualification	See table 2	6 months	10 months	
	Minimum		\$550	\$900	\$900
0.13 < 0.15	Maximum	See table 2	\$1,500	\$1,500	
	Disqualification		7 months	10 months	13 months
<0.15	Minimum	See table 2	\$650	\$1,200	\$1,200
	Maximum		\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
<0.15	Disqualification	See table 2	8 months	14 months	17 months
	Minimum		\$750	\$1,600	\$1,600
<0.15	Maximum	See table 2	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,000
	Disqualification		9 months	18 months	30 months
<0.15	Minimum	See table 2	\$900	\$2,100	\$2,100
	Maximum		\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
<0.15	Disqualification	See table 2	10 months	30 months	Permanent

\* The disqualification for repeat offences may differ and may order a licence cancellation, rather than a licence suspension. The above information is provided as a guide only. Independent legal advice should be sought to determine the specific disqualification that will apply in individual circumstances.

## Speeding Offences

Exceeding the Speed Limit By	Fine	Demerit Points
Less than 9 km/h	2 penalty unit	0
Between 9 and 19 km/h	4 penalty unit	2*
Between 20 and 29 km/h	8 penalty unit	3*
Between 30 and 40 km/h	16 penalty unit	6*
More than 40 km/h	24 penalty unit	7*

*\*NOTE: At certain holiday periods (e.g. Easter and Christmas) and on long weekends, demerit points are doubled for alcohol-related and speeding offences. Periods when 'double demerit' points are in force are publicised through the Western Australian media, but you must obey BAC and speed limits at all times.*

## Other Traffic Offences

Offence	Fine	Demerit Points
Driving through a red light	3 penalty units	3**
Failure to stop and give way at a STOP sign	3 penalty units	3
Failure to give way at a GIVE WAY sign	3 penalty units	3
Crossing continuous dividing lines, except when making a lawful turn	3 penalty units	3
Crossing the centre line of a road on a curve or crest when unable to see if the way is clear	3 penalty units	3
Driving through a yellow light	2 penalty units	2
Driving contrary to directions on road traffic signs	2 penalty units	3
Disobeying a hand signal or direction of a Police Officer, a firefighter, an ambulance officer or other authorised person	2 penalty units	3
Using a mobile phone while driving	8 penalty units	3**
Driver not wearing a seatbelt (appropriately restrained passengers or no passengers)	11 penalty units	4**
Driver not wearing a seatbelt with one unrestrained passenger	12 penalty units	4**
Driver not wearing a seatbelt with 2 unrestrained passengers	14 penalty units	4**
Driver not wearing a seatbelt with 3 unrestrained passengers	16 penalty units	4**
Driver not wearing a seatbelt with 4 or more unrestrained passengers	18 penalty units	4**
Driver wearing a seatbelt with one unrestrained passenger	11 penalty units	4**
Driver wearing a seatbelt with 2 unrestrained passengers	12 penalty units	4**

Offence	Fine	Demerit Points
Driver wearing a seatbelt with 3 unrestrained passengers	14 penalty units	4**
Driver wearing a seatbelt with 4 or more unrestrained passengers	16 penalty units	4**
Passenger not wearing a seat belt	11 penalty units	0
Passenger not occupying a position with a seat belt	11 penalty units	0
Failure to stop at a children's crossing when in operation	4 penalty units	4
Passing a vehicle which is giving way at a children's crossing	4 penalty units	4
Failure to give way at a pedestrian crossing	4 penalty units	3
Passing a vehicle which is giving way at a pedestrian crossing	4 penalty units	4
Failure to give way to a vehicle on the right at an intersection	3 penalty units	3
Failure to give way to a pedestrian or oncoming vehicle when turning at an intersection; or to a pedestrian or other vehicle when making a U turn	3 penalty units	3
Failure to give way to an emergency vehicle	3 penalty units	4
Failure to give way to vehicles on a roundabout	3 penalty units	3
Failure to give way to vehicles when approaching from a terminating road (T junction)	3 penalty units	3
Wilfully causing excessive noise, smoke (eg a 'burnout')***	12 penalty units	3***
Passengers riding in back of utes (passengers)	11 penalty units	0
Passengers riding in back of utes (driver)**	11 penalty units	4**

**\*\*NOTE:** At certain holiday periods (eg Easter and Christmas) and on long weekends, demerit points are doubled for seat belt, driving, and 'riding in open load space' offences. Periods when 'double demerit' points are in force are publicised through the Western Australian media.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** This offence may result in the impounding or confiscation of a vehicle.

# Appendix 4 - Getting Your First Licence

## Proof of identity for your initial application

To uphold DoT's commitment of secure identities for the WA community, you must supply a number of documents as proof of your identity when first applying for a driver's licence or photo card.

A combination of five original documents must be presented to verify your full name, date of birth and current residential address\*. To assist you, there are two options for the combination of documents you must provide:

### Combination 1



### Combination 2



**\*Note: this may not apply to existing WA photo card, learner's permit or driver's licence holders.**

## Document guidelines

- All documents must be originals - certified photocopies will not be accepted.
- One of the documents presented must contain your signature (may not be required for WA photo card).
- The name on your documents must be the same or you must provide evidence of change of name that clearly shows the link between your birth name and current name.

### Category A: Establishment of identity

- Original Australian or New Zealand (NZ) birth certificate (not an extract) issued by an Australian or NZ Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM). Commemorative certificates will not be accepted.
- Australian citizenship or naturalisation documentation issued by Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) or Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- Confirmation/recognition of birth letter issued by an Australian RBDM.
- NZ citizenship or naturalisation documentation issued by Department of Internal Affairs.
- Permanent Residence Evidence (PRE) ImmiCard issued by DIBP.
- Evidence of Immigration Status (EIS) ImmiCard issued by DIBP.
- Residence Determination ImmiCard (RDI) issued by DIBP.
- Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status (CERS) issued by DIBP.
- Evidence of immigration status, including electronic visas, issued by DIBP.

### Category B: Link between identity and person

- WA driver's licence or learner's permit card that displays the holder's photo and signature. This document must be current or not have expired by more than five years.
- Australian driver's licence or learner's permit card not issued in WA that displays the holder's photo and signature. This document must be current or not have expired by more than two years.
- Australian passport not expired by more than two years.
- Overseas passport that is current (expired passports will not be accepted).
- Consular photo identity card issued by DFAT.
- WA photo card.

- WA photographic firearms identification card.
- Document of Identity issued by DIBP.
- Maritime Security Identity card.
- Aviation Security Identification card.
- Parental identification and statutory declaration. A parent must attend with their child and present their current driver's licence for identity verification.

### Category C: Evidence of identity in community

- Australian EFTPOS or credit card that is current.
- Australian bank statement or letter, less than six months old.
- Australian utilities account or notice, such as a gas, water, electricity or telephone bill, less than six months old.
- Australian Tax Office Tax File Number Letter (original) or Tax Notice of Assessment Letter (original).
- Official document or letter from a government agency showing residential address, less than six months old.
- Residential tenancy agreement that is current and shows residential address.
- Electoral enrolment letter showing residential address, less than two years old.
- Centrelink or Department of Veteran Affairs health care or pensioner concession card.
- Medicare card.
- WA Seniors card.
- WA vehicle licence (registration paper).
- WA Proof of Age card, Australian Capital Territory Proof of Age Card, New South Wales Photo Card, Northern Territory Evidence of Age Card, Tasmanian Personal Information Card, Queensland Adult Proof of Age Card, South Australian Proof of Age Card or Victorian Proof of Age Card.
- Marine licence indicator card.
- Worksafe high risk work card.
- Dangerous goods security card.
- Security guard/crowd control licence.
- Photographic Police or Australian Defence Force identification card (excludes civilian cards).
- WA working with children card.
- Australian Keypass identity card.
- WA Recreational Skipper's Ticket.
- Employee photo identity card issued by state/territory or commonwealth government.
- Australian Defence Force discharge papers, less than 12 months old.
- Student photographic identification issued in WA.
- School report, certificate of accomplishment or enrolment issued by a secondary school in WA, less than six months old.
- WA Keys for Life certificate issued in WA, less than two years old.
- Australian or New Zealand RBDM issued marriage, divorce or name change certificate. Commemorative certificates will not be accepted.

### Category D: Evidence of residential address

- Letter from current employer showing residential address, less than 6 months old.
- Recognised educational institution letter from the principal showing residential address, less than 12 months old.

Please note: A document listed in category B or C containing your current residential address is an acceptable document for category D, as long as that document has not already been used to satisfy category B or C.

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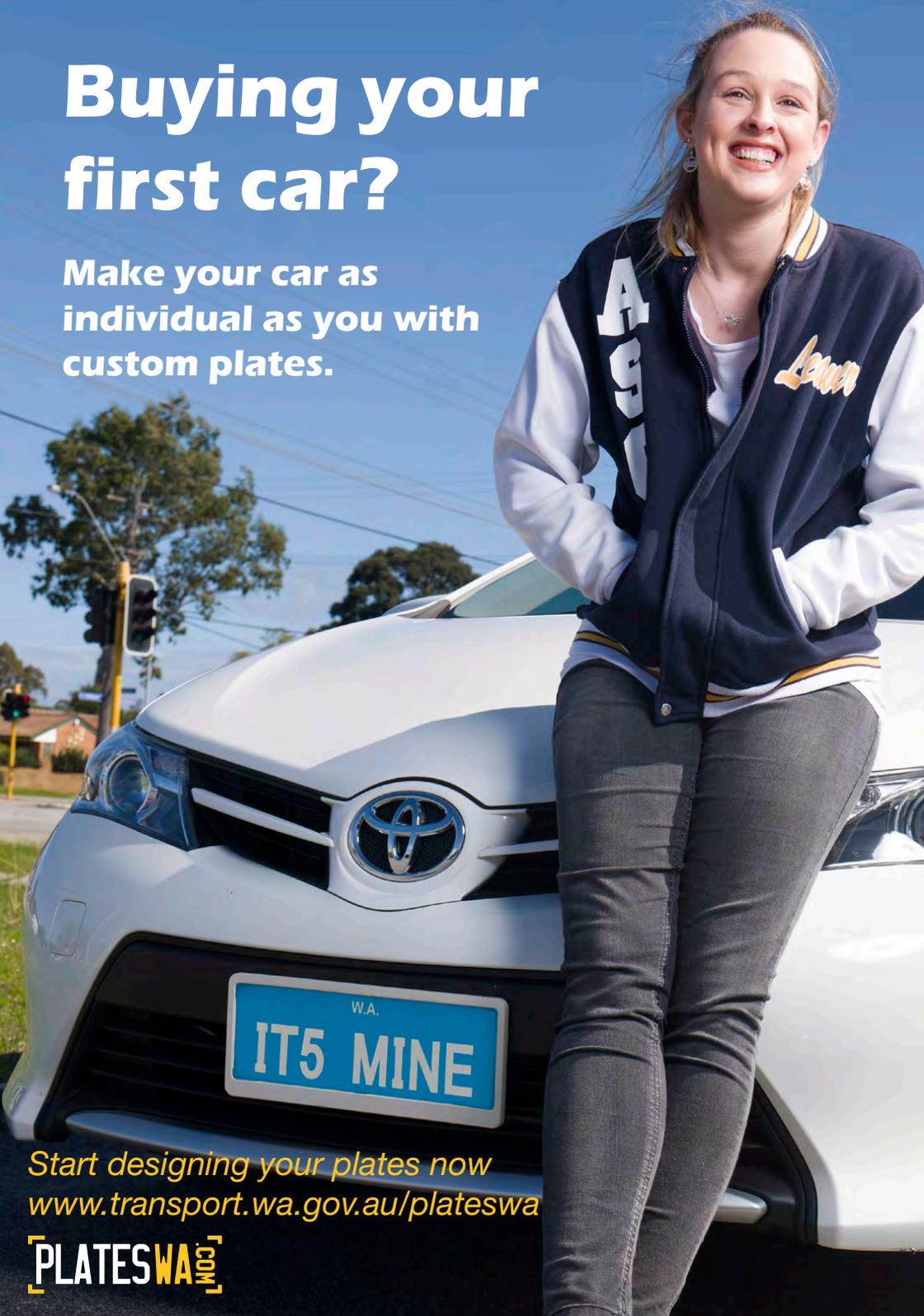
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# Notes



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