

# Multicultural Road Safety Workshop

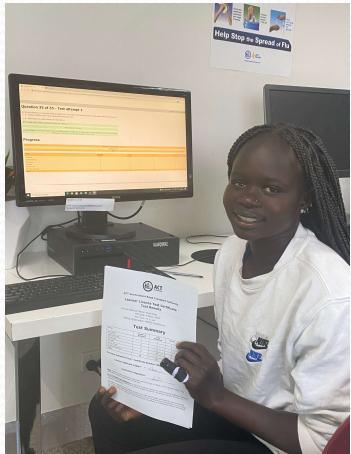


All text and images, regardless of source, are used solely for the purpose of sharing information about road rules and issues in the ACT with clients at MARSS.

# Multicultural Road Safety Workshop Aim:

Before starting practical driving lessons in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), it is important to provide English speaking clients with culturally appropriate education on road safety practices in the ACT.

# Why are we doing Multicultural Road Safety Workshops?



# Workshop explanation

It's important to provide workshops and written information to people from new and emerging refugee and migrant communities living in the ACT, to enable them to use our roads safely. These workshops and complementary written information, funded by the ACT Government, will be provided to clients from English speaking communities in their own first language, to allow people to learn, understand and discuss issues relating to rules and road safety.

# Why did the ACT Government fund the Multicultural Road Safety Workshops?

Deliver road safety awareness activities including public awareness campaigns;

- encourage and promote road safety education in the ACT community;
- promote and stimulate research and investigation on road safety issues, and the implementation of accident and injury counter measures, especially in the area of accident prevention and injury minimisation;
- support or facilitate the construction of physical improvements to land in the ACT to promote road safety, for example road safety audits, feasibility studies, evaluations and research into road design and construction; and
- aid in the establishment of initiatives aimed at rehabilitating persons seriously injured or traumatised as a result of road accidents.

People from new and emerging refugee and migrant communities - especially those who have arrived in Australia very recently - face a number of additional barriers when it comes to understanding and upholding road rules and maintaining positive road safety practices, compared to other residents of ACT. These barriers include:

- \*Lower Levels of English language proficiency - which means they may be unaware of or misunderstand road safety rules and practices; and
- \*Cultural issues - particularly for people who have come to Australia from countries with very different driving, road rules and road use practices.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Follow the road rules to keep our roads safe.

Insurer AAMI has identified **8 common distractions and how to combat them:**

Did you know most serious car accidents occur within five minutes of home?

It's easy to become complacent on familiar routes, especially as an experienced driver.

# Most Aussies drive distracted

Have you multi-tasked while driving at some point?

It doesn't matter how long you've had your licence- all drivers are at risk of being distracted on the road.

Here are the most common distractions and how to combat them.

# The most common distractions on the road

## 1. Eating or drinking (41%)\*

According to Kantar's Driver Distraction research, 41% of drivers eat or drink behind the wheel.

Eating while driving may be legal, but you can still receive fines and demerit points if police find that your control of the car was compromised, even if you don't crash.

Even easy to reach snacks like chips can reduce your grip on the steering wheel because they leave grease on your fingers.

### Hot tip:

Stop for a break if you need to eat or drink.

## 2. Changing the music or radio station (34%)\*

Many drivers change radio stations without a second thought. But shifting your eyes away from the road – even for a split second – increases your chances of an accident.

**Hot tip:**

**Make a playlist before driving**

Create a driving playlist before you head off.

There are now apps that use AI to generate custom playlists based on your specific interests. You can even scan a music festival poster to create a playlist based on the line-up.

### 3. Looking away to use your GPS (34%)\*

We'd be lost without our GPS systems. But we need to make sure we're using them safely on the road.

#### Hot tips:

- If you're using your phone's GPS, mount it on the dashboard at eye-level.
- Always set up your GPS route before you start driving.
- Pull over and park in a safe spot if you need to readjust your route.

#### 4. Looking at pedestrians (25%)\*

Distracted driving isn't limited to tech use! 25% of drivers are distracted by pedestrians while driving.\*

##### **Hot tip:**

Remember to keep your eyes on the road, no matter how seasoned a driver you are.

## 5. Talking on the phone (13%)\*

Even a momentary distraction – like glancing at your phone to see who's calling you – can be life-threatening. Yet many of us are guilty of using our mobile while driving.

### **Hot tips:**

#### **Set your phone to “do not disturb”**

It's so hard to resist the temptation of checking your phone. Go to your phone settings and select “do not disturb” to make this easier.

#### **Use hands-free**

If you must pick up a call, use hands-free. Though, it's still best to avoid talking on the phone when driving because even if your hands are on the wheel there's still a risk of cognitive distraction.

## 6. Breaking up kids' fights in the back seat (11%)\*

Kids can cause a lot of chaos in the car, especially on long road trips. It may be worthwhile to prep some child-friendly entertainment for those long journeys.

### Hot tips:

Here is a handy app that may help with bored kids.

### Roadtrippers

This app helps you plan your route with suggested stops along the way. You can set things up before you leave, and choose between activities like camping, the outdoors, city life and more.

## 7. Tending to a pet (8%)

Many Aussies drive with their dog unrestrained in the backseat. But Buddy poses a huge risk if he blocks your view or jumps around in the car.\*

**Hot tip:**

**Restrain your pet**

Get your dog a harness that is compatible with your car's seatbelt system. For cats, it's best to place them in a carrier that's strapped securely in place.

For more tips on how to safely transport all kinds of pets – including snakes and ferrets – [check out this guide](#).

## 8. Grooming or fixing your hair (7%)

You may think that fixing your hair or lipstick in traffic is no biggie. But distractions significantly reduce your reaction time on the road.

### **Hot tip:**

Do your makeup, hair, or any other type of grooming before you leave the house, or when you reach your destination.

**Discussion: What do you think  
are the top risks taking  
behaviours on the road?**



THE END