

# Multicultural Road Safety Workshop

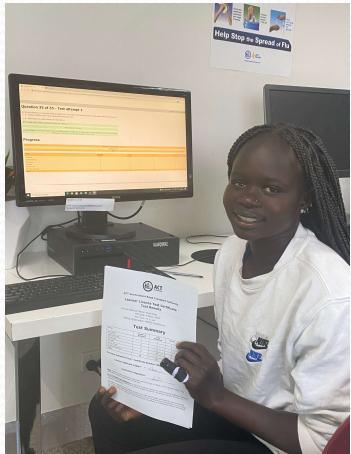


All text and images, regardless of source, are used solely for the purpose of sharing information about road rules and issues in the ACT with clients at MARSS.

# 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.

As a result, there may be ignorance or misunderstanding about a number of road safety laws and practices including:

- \*Road use and road safety terminology and signage;
- \*Use of mobile phones and other devices while driving;
- \*Use of drugs and alcohol while driving;
- \*Use of safety belts and child safety restraints; and
- \*Minimum passing distances.

These issues will be addressed by delivering a series of workshops to people from new and emerging refugee and migrant communities in their own first languages.

The workshops will be run in partnership with expert organisations with knowledge and experience in key road safety issues, working alongside a translator.



These workshops will enable refugees and migrants to learn and discuss key road safety issues in their own first language, and provide opportunity for questions and discussion to explore and challenge any misunderstanding or misconceptions about road rules and road safety.

The projects will enhance road safety in the ACT by providing people from 5 new and emerging refugee and migrant communities with the opportunity to learn and discuss road safety rules and issues in their own first languages.

# Road use and road signs



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

Road Safety is a priority for ACT Policing, who work in partnership with the ACT Government and City Services Directorate to support the ACT Government's Road Safety Strategy.

The aim of the strategy is to reduce road trauma in Canberra and includes targeted traffic enforcement and road safety awareness campaigns.

The top five contributing factors to death and serious injury on ACT roads, also known as the “Fatal Five” are:

- Speeding;
- alcohol and drug impaired driving;
- driver distraction;
- failure to obey traffic lights and signs; and
- seatbelts.

ACT Policing actively targets the 'Fatal Five' with high-visibility and unmarked patrols. Our Road Policing portfolio has three dedicated teams committed to enforcing traffic laws and promoting safer driving on ACT roads.

- Road Safety Operations Team;
- Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Team; and
- Mobile Traffic

ACT Policing also collaborates with non- Government stakeholders such as Pedal Power on road safety awareness campaigns that benefit the ACT community. Any police officer can pull you over for breaching the road rules or unsafe driving practices – anywhere, anytime.

# Collisions

If you have been involved in a collision in the ACT you must by law report it to police within 24 hours. You can do this via the online reporting form.

ACT Policing actively targets drivers to ensure our roads remain safe. If you are driving in an unsafe manner you could receive a traffic fine, lose your licence, have your vehicle seized or even face imprisonment.

Completing the online form will generate a collision report number that can be used in insurance claims.

Remember to keep a printed copy of the report for your records.

If you are unable to complete the online form, or require assistance please visit your local police station.

For more information visit report a collision.

# Reporting a traffic offence

You can report information about illegal traffic related activity via the Crime Stoppers ACT online form and selecting “Traffic Offence”. The information you provide will be recorded within AFP systems and assist us in targeting offending vehicle/s, associated persons and traffic hot spots. This can also be reported via the ACT Policing website - Dangerous Driving | ACT Policing Online Services (afp.gov.au)

# Traffic Controls

Traffic controls are traffic lights and arrows, stop and give-way signs, road markings and roundabouts. These controls are not optional or negotiable.

They are on our roads to help keep road users safe. Ignoring our traffic controls can cost you hundreds of dollars in fines and three demerit points.

Police target offences like:

- Running red lights and red arrows;
- Speeding up for yellow lights instead of braking;
- Not stopping or giving way at intersections; and
- Not using a roundabout correctly or not indicating off the roundabout.

# Traffic Controls (continued)

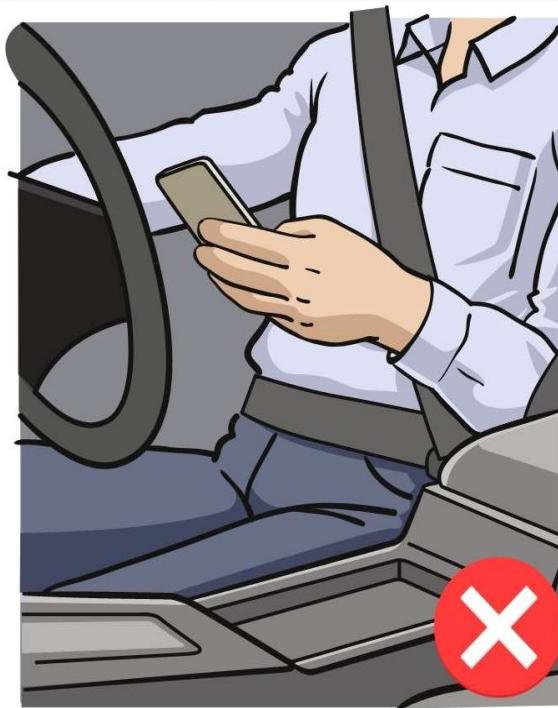
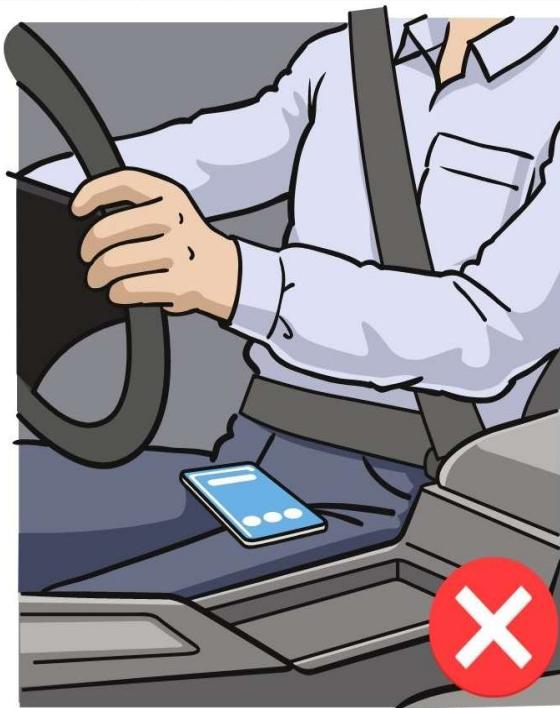
Over half of all collisions in the ACT occur at intersections.

Drivers who don't obey traffic lights and signs end up in serious injuries or fatal collisions and face large fines.

Accelerating at a yellow light instead of stopping because you are in a hurry to get home, could end up with you never making it home again.

Be patient and pay attention to the traffic controls. Obey the signs and avoid the fines.

# Use of mobile phones and other devices while driving



# Driver Distraction

ACT Policing actively targets people illegally using their mobile phones while driving. If you are caught you will receive a Traffic Infringement Notice.

Note: Under the road transport law, including the Australian Road Rules, driving generally includes riding a motorcycle or bicycle.

The most appropriate place to make or receive a telephone call is on the side of the road when your vehicle is parked. This doesn't mean you can make a call or use your telephone while waiting at traffic lights.

# Driver Distraction (continued)

Mobile phones may be used to make or receive a phone call (other than a text message, video message, email or similar communication) when the vehicle is moving if the body of the phone is:

- Secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle while being used; or
- Not secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle and is not being held by the driver, and the use of the phone does not require the driver, at any time while using it, to press any thing on the body of the phone or to otherwise manipulate any part of the body of the phone.

Many new vehicles have Bluetooth systems which can be paired with a mobile telephone, allowing you to make a call 'hands-free'.

# Driver Distraction (continued)

If you need to make or receive a call while driving:

- Keep the conversation short;
- Don't engage in complex or emotional conversations;
- Tell the person on the other end that you are driving and may have to end the call abruptly; and
- End the call if it is distracting you from driving.

Never text or email while driving.

A mobile phone can be important in an emergency. If you need to use your mobile phone to call for help, stop and park safely where you will not endanger yourself or other road users.

ACT drivers are permitted to use their mobile phone for GPS purposes, provided the phone is securely affixed to the vehicle.

# Use of drugs and alcohol while driving



Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Driving



Chapter 7



# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving

Alcohol and drug impaired drivers pose the highest risk on our roads. Removing these drivers reduces the potential for serious injury or fatal collisions.

Roadside alcohol or drug screening can happen anywhere any time on any road by an unmarked police vehicle. If you drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you will be caught.

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (continued)

## In the ACT:

- Drivers who hold a full licence are allowed a prescribed blood alcohol concentration limit of under 0.05 alcohol content;
- Special, probationary, international (from non-recognised countries), provisional and learner licence holders, as well as driver trainers, are subject to a zero blood alcohol; and concentration level.
- Visit [Licence classes and conditions - Access Canberra \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/life-in-the-act/licence-classes-and-conditions) to determine what level licence you hold.

# **Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving** **(continued)**

The message is to 'Drink or Drive' not both.

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving

## (continued)

### Roadside breath test screening process

1. If the reading from a **screening** instrument indicates the driver of the vehicle may be over the prescribed concentration of alcohol, the driver is taken to a police station for breath analysis.
2. At the police station, an authorised breath analysis operator requests the driver to supply a further breath sample for **analysis**.
3. If the analysis of the sample shows the person is at or over the limit, he or she can either be arrested or summoned to appear in court at a later date.  
It is an offence to fail or refuse to supply a sample of breath for screening or analysis.

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (continued)

**What are the penalties for drink driving?**

See penalties at [Drink and drug driving - City Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/Drink_and_drug_driving)

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (continued)

## **Drug Driving**

Unlike alcohol, any trace of illegal drugs in your system while driving a motor vehicle is illegal. ACT Policing commenced Random Roadside Drug Testing (RRDT) in May 2011. These drug tests test for cannabis, methylamphetamine (speed and ice) and MDMA (ecstasy). Drug testing can take place anywhere, anytime – don't risk it.

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (continued)

## **Drug driving tests**

The testing only relates to the 'presence' of a drug in your system, there is no limit like drink driving. RRDT is a three-step process before the driver could be charged with an offence. The first two steps are undertaken by police on the roadside.

First an oral test is used, followed immediately by a 'preliminary oral fluid analysis' using an instrument called a Drug Detection System.

If the person is unable to provide a saliva swab, a blood test may be used. A third 'confirmative' positive laboratory test is required before a driver is charged.

# Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (continued)

## **Penalties for drug driving**

Drug drivers will be required to appear before the court, similar to those who 'drink and drive'.

An offending driver can face a loss of their driver's license for a period specified by the court, be given a fine as well as imprisonment for repeat offenders.

For more information on drug driving visit the [City Services Website](#).

# Use of safety belts and child safety restraints

**Good Seat Belt Fit with High-back Booster Seat**

✓ **GOOD fit:**



✓ The shoulder belt lays across the middle of the chest and shoulder.  
✓ The lap belt lays across the upper thighs.

✗ **BAD fit:**



✗ The shoulder belt lays too close to or on the neck or face; or too far out on shoulder.  
✗ The lap belt lays on the stomach.

Always properly buckle children aged 12 and under in the back seat!

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **CDC**

# Seat Belts

Seatbelts are a proven safety feature when driving a motor vehicle. Not wearing a seatbelt greatly increases your chances of serious injury or death if you are involved in a collision.

It is an offence to drive while not wearing your seatbelt or to permit passengers to travel in your car without seatbelts. As the driver, you are responsible for all passengers in your vehicle. If they do not wear a seatbelt, you will incur a fine and three demerit points.

# Child Restraints

The safety of children is important. Children must be restrained correctly at all times, even when driving at low speeds or on short trips.

The following requirements apply whenever children are travelling in a vehicle.

- Babies under the age of 6 months must be restrained in an approved rear facing child restraint;
- Children over 7 years can be seated in a suitable child restraint or a normal passenger seat with a seat belt.
- Child restraints and seatbelts must be properly fastened and adjusted.

A child can NEVER be put into a seatbelt with another adult or child. Seatbelts are designed for the use of one person.

# Your Legal Responsibility

It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure all children travelling in the vehicle are correctly restrained in a suitable approved child restraint which is properly fastened and adjusted, or occupy a seating position fitted with a suitable seatbelt and wear the seatbelt properly adjusted and fastened, even for short trips. Failure to comply with the requirements is a serious offence and you are liable for a substantial fine as well as demerit points.

Before purchasing a restraint, always check to make sure it is suitable for your child and vehicle.

# Kids Safe

For more information, including a guide to appropriate child restraints for different weights and age ranges, visit the Kidsafe website.

Video seat belts is Car and Road Safety | kidsafe Australia as well as Seatbelts - City Services (act.gov.au)

# Emergency Kits

A well-packed emergency kit ensures you have the tools on-hand to assist you in getting help, and should include:

- First aid kit;
- Blanket;
- Mobile phone and charger;
- Fire extinguisher or a fire blanket;
- Torch and extra batteries;
- Food and water; and
- Jumper lead and cables.

# Minimum passing distances



Minimum passing distance.  
**It's the law.**

# Cyclists

Just like motorists, cyclists are permitted to ride on the road and are expected to obey the road rules and regulations that are in place for everyone's safety.

Motorists are required to treat cyclists as if they were any other vehicle, including giving way when required and keeping a safe distance.

Cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians do not have the same protection as a car during a collision, which makes them vulnerable road users.

# Cyclists (continued)

Cyclists should:

- Obey the road rules, such as stopping at all red traffic lights;
- Wear a helmet and brightly coloured clothing;
- Use lights when cycling at night;
- Ride predictably and indicate to motorists before changing direction or turning;
- Keep their brakes and tyres in good working order;
- Install a bell for safety; and
- Anticipate driver's actions.

# Cyclists (continued)

Drivers should:

- Be patient and give cyclists a clearance of at least 1 metre when passing them at 60km/h or less, and 1.5 meters when passing 60km/h or more;
- Watch out for cyclists at intersections and roundabouts;
- Check behind them for cyclists before opening your car door; and
- Anticipate cyclist's actions.

# Don't think fines are only for motorists

Under the ACT Road Rules a number of offences exist in relation to cyclists.

ACT Policing issues Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) and official Cautions to cyclists who do not obey the road rules.

The most common TINs and Cautions issued to cyclists are for:

- Not wearing a helmet;
- Having a passenger that's not wearing a helmet; and
- Riding a bike which does not have the proper equipment, such as front and back lights or a warning device.

The ACT Road Rules Handbook makes it clear the information in the handbook applies to cyclists as well as drivers.

## Metre matters rule

Motorists are required to provide a minimum distance of 1 metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h and one and a half metres in speed zones above 60km/h.

## Riding across pedestrian crossing

Cyclists are able to ride slowly across pedestrian crossings (at no more than 10km/h).

# Police and Emergency Vehicles

You must give way to the emergency vehicles; Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, State Emergency Services, and Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting; when you hear their sirens or lights flashing. They can be approaching from behind, beside or in front of you.

Giving way means you must get out of their way; so that vehicle has a clear passage through traffic. Fines and penalties can apply.

For more information visit [How to share roads and paths](#)  
[- Transport Canberra \(act.gov.au\)](#)

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



THE END