

## Who we are

Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT Inc. is a vibrant hub providing services to migrants, refugees and other humanitarian entrants, from those who have just arrived to those who have been here for years but still experience difficulty navigating or accessing government services, education or employment. Two of the services that MARSS provides are:

- Road Ready classes that assist clients to obtain their learner driver licence.
- Practical driving lessons with qualified driving instructors. Interpreters can be arranged for those that may require additional assistance.

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## Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services

of the ACT Inc.

(MARSS)



# Road Safety Booklet

This program was funded by the NRMA—ACT Road Safety Trust

# Speed Limits

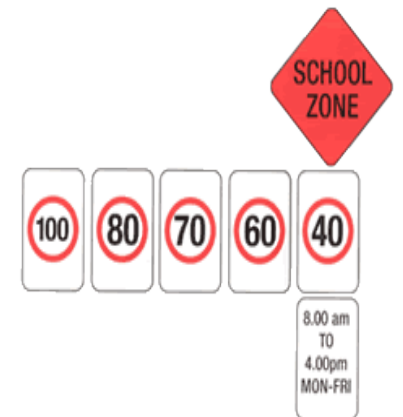
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There are many different speed zones in the Australian Capital Territory. If you do not see a distinct sign indicating what speed to travel while you are driving in a residential area, the law states that a driver should travel no faster than 50 kilometres per hour.

It is important to remember that in some areas around the ACT there are set speed limits. These areas include school zones (set speed limit of 40km/h) and central business areas. There are other areas, such as areas where road works are being carried out, where the normal speed limit may be temporarily changed. In these areas it is important to obey any temporary signage.

If a driver exceeds the posted speed limit, strict penalties may be imposed. These penalties may include fines, demerit points or even loss of licence.



# Speeding

Speeding is a major contributor to injury and death on our roads. It reduces the ability to control the vehicle and lengthens stopping distances, increasing both the likelihood of crashing and the severity of the crash outcome.

Drivers who wilfully speed are gambling with their own lives, the lives of other drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists.

Speeding can result in:

- heavy fines;
- loss of drivers licence;
- Imprisonment;
- loss of life;
- Injuries;
- a permanent disability.

Traffic Infringement Notices and fines for speeding range from a minimum of \$257 and one demerit point to over \$1,831 and six demerit points for each offence.

If you are speeding and are involved in a collision you could face serious charges including, negligent driving and culpable driving resulting in injury or death. You could face penalties of up to 14 years imprisonment.

## Overview of Booklet

This Road Safety booklet is designed to be a helpful tool for those learning to drive as well as those that have been driving for a while.

The Road Safety booklet covers general information about driving in the Australian Capital Territory, as well as covering several road safety dos and don'ts.

This booklet has been designed in collaboration with the Australian Capital Territory Government, and has been designed to be read and used in conjunction with the ACT road transport legislation and the ACT Road Rules Handbook.

## Driving in the Australian Capital Territory

Driving in the Australian Capital Territory may be very different to what you know or may have experienced.

Drivers visiting the ACT are not required to obtain an ACT driver licence as long as their overseas licence and international driving permit remain current. Visiting drivers include people who are in the ACT for a short period of time and intend to return to their home country. Visiting drivers must ensure that they carry an English translation of their overseas licence while driving a vehicle in the ACT.



## Drug Driving

Alcohol and drug impaired drivers pose one of the highest risks on our roads. Members of the ACT Policing arm of the Australian Federal Police can conduct random road side alcohol and drug testing or if they suspect that a driver is drug affected or driving under the influence of alcohol.

Driving while drug impaired can cause the following affects on your driving:

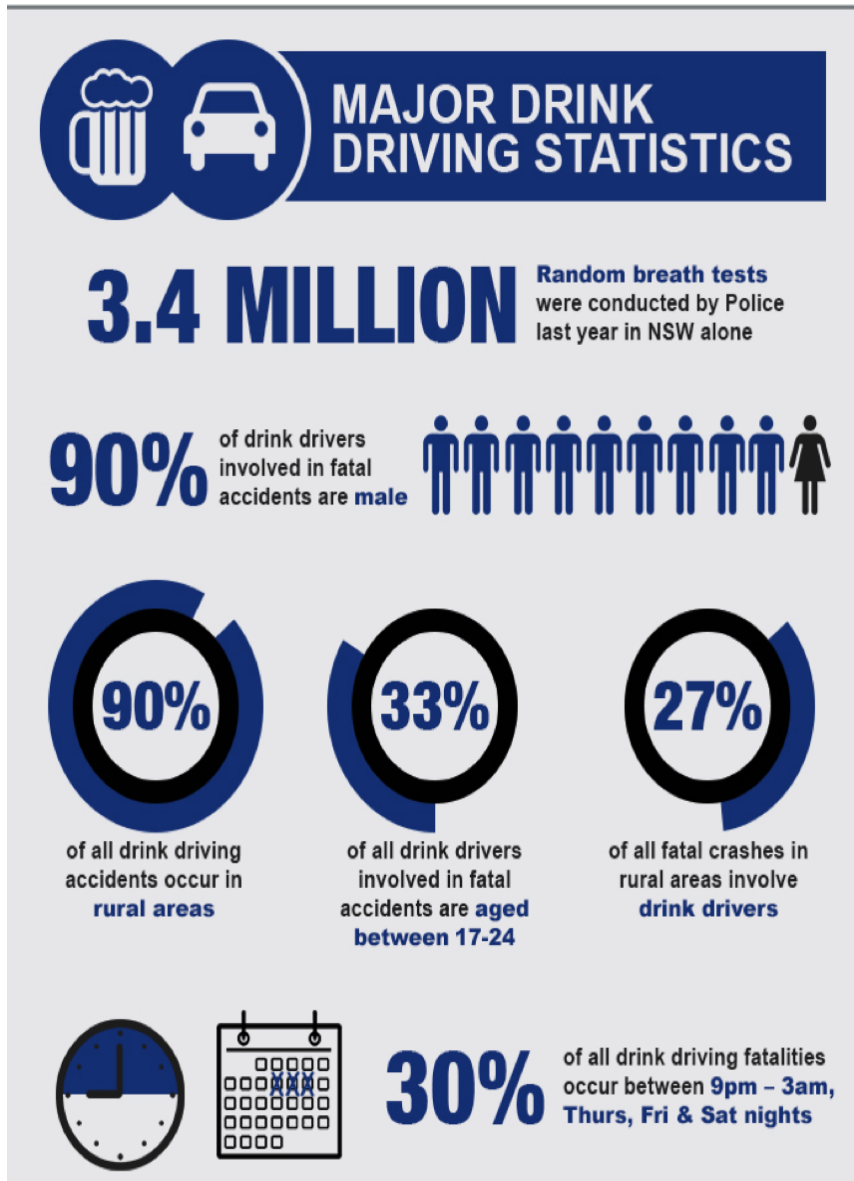
- slowing down of your reaction time; and
- Causing distorted views of time and distance.

Reducing a persons ability to identify road and driving hazards.

If you fail a road side drug or alcohol test you will be charged with an offence and be required to appear in an ACT court to answer the charge. Serious penalties can apply to alcohol and drug driving offences including:

- heavy fines;
- loss of licence; and
- Imprisonment.

# Driving Dos



1. Do drive to the road and weather conditions, not always to the posted speed limit.
2. Do ensure that yourself and all passengers are safely secured in the appropriate seatbelts or child seats or restraints.
3. Do plan your trips in advance.
4. Do ensure you minimize distractions in your vehicle.
5. Do maintain safe distances between yourself and other road users.
6. Do use your indicators to signal to other road users your intention to turn or change lanes.

# Driving Don'ts

1. Don't drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
2. Don't speed.
3. Don't tailgate other vehicles.
4. Don't engage in other activities while driving. (For example drinking, eating, changing music).
5. Don't use your mobile phone while driving. This includes taking calls or texting.
6. Don't assume what the other drivers around you will do.

# Drink Driving

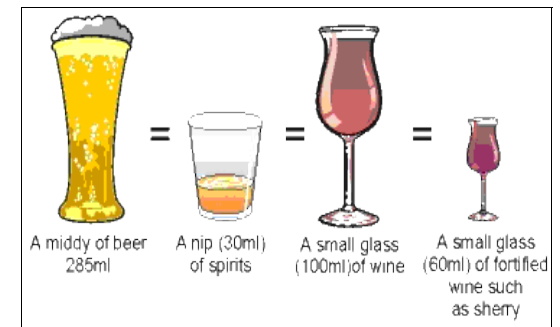
Alcohol is involved in almost one-third of all serious motor vehicle collisions.

The higher the level of alcohol in your body the greater the risk of crashing.

The higher the level of alcohol in your body the higher the fine and/or jail term.

It is safest not to drink alcohol at all if you are going to drive. The more alcohol you have in your body, the greater is the risk of you having a collision:

- At an 0.05 grams concentration of alcohol, your risk of being involved in a road crash is double that of a 0.00% reading.
- At 0.1 grams concentration of alcohol your risk is seven times higher than at 0.00%.
- At 0.15 grams your risk increases to 25 times that of driving at 0.00%



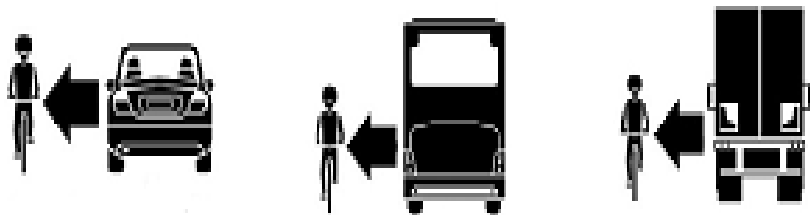
## CYCLISTS PASSING DISTANCE

A recently introduced law in the Australian Capital Territory specifies that drivers must ensure a minimum passing distance while overtaking cyclists on the roads.

When overtaking a bicycle, motorists are required to keep a minimum lateral distance of:

- a) 1 metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h; and
- b) 1.5 metres when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones above 60km/h.

Motorists must also give way to cyclists on pedestrian crossings.



## Sharing the Roads with Emergency Vehicles

If an emergency vehicle is approaching and is sounding an alarm or showing flashing lights, you must move out of the path of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can do so safely.

It is an offence not to give way to an emergency vehicle. Please do the right thing — look, listen and move out of the path.

Tips for assisting our emergency services response vehicles:

- Do not panic.
- Slow down (but do not brake rapidly).
- Use your indicators.
- Be aware of other motorists.
- Do not move suddenly or move into the path of the emergency vehicle.
- Move as far to the left of the road as you can and come to a stop.

If you cannot move out of the path safely, stay where you are and let the emergency vehicle drive around you.

## Emergency vehicles at intersections

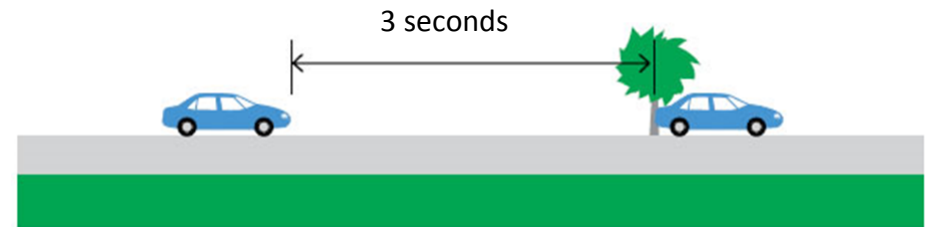
Police and emergency vehicles often stop or slow down when they enter intersections to check if they can pass through safely. You must give way to, and not drive into the path of, an emergency vehicle that is sounding an alarm or showing flashing lights, even if you are facing a green traffic light or arrow and the emergency vehicle appears to have stopped or slowed down.

Indicate which way you will be moving out of the path of the police or emergency service vehicle. If you cannot move out of the path of a police or emergency service vehicle safely, stay put and let the police or emergency vehicle drive around you.



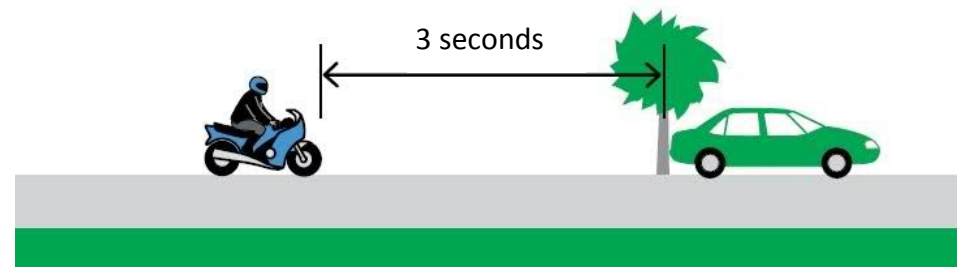


## SAFE DRIVING DISTANCES



A good guide to safe driving distances is to ensure that there is at least a 3 second gap between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

When driving in wet conditions, the gap between drivers needs to be doubled to 6 seconds between vehicles. This will ensure that there is enough room to stop safely if a sudden stop is required.





## 5 OF THE MOST COMMON

### DRIVER DISTRACTIONS:

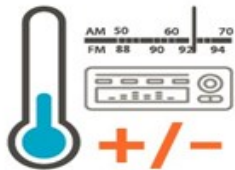
# DISTRACTED DRIVING



USING  
YOUR  
SMARTPHONE  
WHILE  
DRIVING



EATING OR DRINKING



ADJUSTING  
RADIO OR  
TEMPERATURE  
CONTROLS



OTHER  
VEHICLE  
OCCUPANTS



DRIVING ON  
AUTOPILOT

## Seat belts

Seatbelts are a proven safety feature when driving a motor vehicle. Not wearing a seatbelt significantly 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 demerit points.



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# Child Seats and Restraints



Children under the age of 16 must be securely and properly restrained in vehicles as follows:

1. Babies under 6 months old must be in an approved rearward facing child restraint.
2. Between 6 months and 4 years old, children must be in an approved rearward facing or forward facing child restraint that has an inbuilt harness.
3. Between 4 years and 7 years old, children must be in an approved child restraint or booster seat with seatbelt.
4. Children over 7 years old can be seated in an approved child restraint or booster seat, or are permitted to use a seatbelt.

Passengers under 7 years old must not be seated in the front seat unless all other seats are taken up by other children less than 7 years old in child restraints.

A child can never be put in to a restraint or seatbelt with another adult or child.

# Driver distractions

Driving while distracted can cause all sorts of road crashes, from minor collisions at traffic lights to major crashes that may cause injury or loss of life to those travelling in the vehicles. One of the most common causes of distractions for drivers is the use of mobile phones.

The following activities are not permitted (even if the phone is securely mounted):

- Messaging, social networking or using mobile phone applications. A driver must not at any time press anything on the body of the phone.

What you can do with a mobile phone when driving:

- Mobile phones can be used as a driver's aid, if the phone is being used to perform a navigational or intelligent highway and vehicle system function, such as google maps, Tom Tom App, Garmin App and others, and the phone is secured in a commercially designed mounting affixed to the vehicle.
- Listen to music, but the driver or rider must not touch or hold any part of the phone at any time.
- If the phone is not mounted, it can still be used to make or receive a phone call, but the driver or rider must not touch or hold any part of the phone at any time, this can be done via Bluetooth or voice activation.

