

Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015

OFFICE OF ROAD SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

In support of the *Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015*, and to address a range of existing and emerging alcohol and other drug issues, the Office of Road Safety has identified a number of key initiatives for 2013/14. Outcomes are summarised below in the respective key strategic areas of the Framework.

Key Strategic Area 1: Focusing on prevention

Educating and encouraging individuals, families and communities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills to choose healthy lifestyles and promote healthy environments.

Highlights for 2013/14:

- The 'You Deserve It', the drink driving enforcement community education campaign, ran throughout the 2013/14 financial year. The aim of the campaign, produced in 2010, was to support WA Police enforcement of drink driving. It highlighted that whatever the occasion, the enforcement of drink driving can be expected anywhere and at any time.
- The Office of Road Safety has continued its long standing partnership with Goolarri Media to promote Indigenous road safety issues. In particular, one campaign targets drink driving through the development and placement of Indigenous specific television and radio advertising in the Kimberley region.
- The Office of Road Safety also promoted safe road use to Aboriginal youth via the David Wirrpanda Foundation's Troy Cook Health and Leadership program and the Deadly Sista Girlz program, which reached approximately 550 young people.

Key Strategic 2: Intervening before problems become entrenched

Implementing a range of programs and services that identify individuals, families and communities at-risk and intervening before problems become entrenched.

Highlights for 2013/14:

- On 13 May 2014 the Hon Liza Harvey MLA introduced the *Road Traffic Amendment (Alcohol and Other Matters) Bill 2014* to the WA Parliament. This Bill enables the making of regulations to establish a mandatory, administrative performance-based alcohol interlock scheme for WA incorporating alcohol assessment and treatment measures. This is a significant milestone for WA and is testament to the work of many WA road safety practitioners over an extended period. Debate on the Bill is anticipated in late 2014.

- In preparation for the introduction of a Statewide alcohol interlock scheme for WA a small scale trial of the voluntary use of alcohol interlocks was conducted with Aboriginal people in a remote area. The trial coordinated by the Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation (NBAC) in Roebourne, ran from March 2012 to August 2013. The trial was successful with members of the community considering the devices a fail-safe means of preventing drink driving and a valuable community safety measure. Nineteen vehicles were fitted with alcohol interlocks enabling at least 150 community members to observe and use them. Many instances of drink driving were prevented. Following the trial the NBAC elected to retain the devices with funding assistance from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.
- In 2011, the Office of Road Safety, on behalf of the Road Safety Council, commissioned research by the Centre of Automotive Safety Research (CASR) into the appropriateness and consistency of speeding and other traffic offences under the *WA Road Traffic Code 2000*. In September 2012 the Road Safety Council convened a working group to consider the CASR report and recommend changes to penalties under the Code for consideration by the Government. In July 2013, the Road Safety Council with the support of the Ministerial Council on Road Safety endorsed the working group recommendations for increased monetary court imposed fines for a number of traffic offences. As a result penalties for driving with any blood alcohol concentration (for eligible drivers) and driving with a blood alcohol concentration above 0.05 gm% have been increased from 26 September 2014.
- Western Australia's drug driving laws have continued to be monitored for their relevance and effectiveness.

Key Strategic 3: Effective law enforcement approaches

Reducing and controlling the availability of alcohol and other drugs and implementing strategies that aim to prevent or break the cycle of offending.

Highlights for 2013/14:

- Government funding through the Road Trauma Trust Account was allocated to Western Australia Police to undertake activities above baseline to increase the actual and perceived levels of traffic enforcement to positively influence driver behaviour.
- The aim of the *Increase Breath and Drug Testing Project* is to contribute to the reduction of fatal and serious crashes resulting from impaired driving on roads. This project includes overtime funding to conduct high-volume and targeted alcohol and drug testing. In 2013/14 there were 256,072 additional alcohol and drug tests conducted by metropolitan and regional police districts as well as 147,931 tests undertaken by the Breath and Drug Bus.
- The *Expansion of Drug Capabilities Project* is to increase the capability for WA Police to detect and deter drug impaired drivers. Impaired driving through alcohol and other drugs is a significant contributor to unsafe road use. Twenty new drug analysers have been purchased and deployed expanding the capacity for WA Police to drug test driver's state wide.
- In 2013/14 the *Advanced Traffic Management Vehicle Project* provided funding to support the ongoing operating costs of the 48 Advanced Traffic Management

Vehicles rolled out from the initial project. The technology installed in the police vehicles aids in law enforcement and traffic management. The advanced capabilities allow for an increased detection of persons of interest, such as repeat drink or unlicensed drivers, through the automatic number plate recognition and on-board data bases.

- The *Strategic Traffic Enforcement Project* provided funding for WA Police to undertake traffic enforcement above baseline levels. WA Police conduct intelligence based road policing duties to target those causal factors, in conjunction with a variety of enforcement strategies including:
 - Additional enforcement through overtime funding for additional road policing and an on road presence.
 - Lockdown Operations where the WA Police Breath and Drug section conduct octopus style operations using an additional breath and drug bus operating during overtime hours (recall) in conjunction with an additional 6 to 10 police vehicles conducting enforcement duties and breath/drug testing in suburbs adjacent to the bus location. This high visibility approach enables a significant amount of passing traffic to come into contact with the breath and drug bus. By locking down entire suburbs including smaller backstreets, the ‘anywhere, anytime’ message is relayed to the public. During 2013/2014, an additional 15,037 road policing hours were conducted across the State.

Key Strategic 5: Strategic coordination and capacity building

Providing improved and targeted responses to alcohol and other drug related problems through capacity building, workforce development, collaboration, evidence based practice, monitoring and information dissemination.

Highlights for 2013/14:

- The indigenous drink driving and licensing (IDDL) resource was released in November 2011. Since that date, around 447 kits have been distributed to a broad range of community and government organisations who are working with Aboriginal people to obtain their drivers’ licences and provide drink driving education. The resource contains a number of culturally appropriate, interactive resources, including DVDs on the licensing process and how to apply and prepare for the Learner’s Permit theory test, education booklets for facilitators and education campaign materials.
- The Office of Road Safety reported on a range of key performance indicators for road safety that sought to measure the success or otherwise of the Government’s priority result areas for road safety. Final outcome (number of people killed and seriously injured), intermediate outcome (changes in system risk due to enforcement and education efforts) and activity indicators have been developed and reported to gauge the success of initiatives designed to reduce the amount of trauma related to drivers impaired by drugs and alcohol.
- On behalf of the Road Safety Council the Curtin Monash Universities Accident Research Centre (C-MARC) conducted research entitled “A roadside survey of the blood alcohol concentration levels of night-time drivers in the Perth metropolitan area”. This research sought to investigate changes in driver blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels within the Perth metropolitan area over time through a

replication of, and comparison with, two previous road side surveys conducted in 1999 and 2000. The research found that compared to the previous surveys, the proportion of drivers detected with a positive BAC (7.1%) has halved (14.9% in 1999, 14.7% in 2000). There was also a significant reduction in the proportion of drivers detected with an illegal BAC (1.4% in 2012 vs. 1.9% in 1999 and 2.1% in 2000). This report provided evidence of some improvement in patterns of drinking and driving between 1999 and 2012. Further it provided intelligence useful to future planning of drink driving enforcement operations, beyond that achieved by detection and conviction data alone.