

# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

## GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

Secondary schools can play an important role in improving the road safety behaviours of their students and wider school community. Young people, especially in their first year of driving, are extremely vulnerable as road users. With limited curriculum time and resources, secondary schools should follow this good practice guide to ensure the road safety programs implemented are effective.

### What is the best approach?

In order to be effective, research shows that schools should ensure that road safety is delivered in the following ways:

- ✓ ongoing programs are delivered over time and are developmentally appropriate
- ✓ programs fit within the school curriculum
- ✓ programs are interactive and encourage students to develop social competence and resilience
- ✓ there is a whole school approach ensuring that appropriate traffic safety policies and teacher support and training is in place
- ✓ initiatives to enhance school connectedness among students and their parents are implemented
- ✓ initiatives to engage with school parents and the local community are implemented.

### What content should be covered?

Many aspects of road safety can be incorporated into the school curriculum. There is research evidence that suggests that school programs should inform and support:

- ✓ the Graduated Licensing System (GLS) focusing on learners undertaking 120 hours of driving practice and helping students develop strategies to enable compliance with the peer passenger and alcohol restrictions for novice drivers
- ✓ the importance of vehicle safety for new drivers
- ✓ understanding and encouraging compliance with road laws
- ✓ linking with school based age appropriate alcohol and drug prevention programs, especially as they relate to young road user safety
- ✓ encouraging parents to be good road safety role models and providing parents with strategies to help reduce the risks their children face as road users.

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### What good practice road safety in schools might look like....

To enhance the safety of young road users, schools need to implement a whole of school approach, as well as having specific programs across Years 10-12.

#### Whole of school activities

- ✓ school has a road safety policy and a policy on senior students driving to school
- ✓ the school is involved with local road safety and community health groups, as well as the local council
- ✓ school connectedness measures and policies are implemented
- ✓ teachers are informed and knowledgeable about good practice road safety programs
- ✓ parents are informed about the road safety education programs and parent specific materials are distributed and promoted

#### Year 10

At year 10, schools should implement:

- ✓ **Traffic Safety Essentials** – delivered across a number of study areas. This is the CORE road safety resource for senior secondary school students.
- ✓ Enhancement programs to support and enrich what students have learned through Traffic Safety Essentials. Recommended enhancement programs are:
  - Keys Please
  - RACV Transmission
  - The Great Transport Race
- ✓ AusVels from [tacsafety.com.au](http://tacsafety.com.au) (schools)

#### Year 11

At year 11, programs build on the traffic safety delivered in Year 10. Schools should implement:

- ✓ Fit to Drive
- ✓ VCE Road Safety Education resources and materials from [tacsafety.com.au](http://tacsafety.com.au)
- ✓ VCAL Road Safety Units.

#### Year 12

At year 12, schools should continue to build on the learning from traffic safety delivered at Year 11. Schools should implement programs relevant to the students who will soon be driving solo and be the legal drinking age. These include:

- ✓ “Looking After Our Mates”
- ✓ VCE Road Safety Safety Education resources and materials from [tacsafety.com.au](http://tacsafety.com.au)
- ✓ VCAL Road Safety Units

#### Where to find resources?

- ✧ Traffic Safety Essentials - visit the DEEDC website: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/trafficsres.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/trafficsres.aspx)
- ✧ VCAL Road Safety Units – visit the VicRoads Road Safety Education pages to download: [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/RoadSafetyEducation/SecondarySchools/VCALRoadSafetyUnits.htm](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/RoadSafetyEducation/SecondarySchools/VCALRoadSafetyUnits.htm)
- ✧ AusVels and VCE Road Safety units – visit the TAC Safety website: [www.tacsafety.com.au/schools/overview](http://www.tacsafety.com.au/schools/overview)
- ✧ All Victorian Road Safety Education resources, links and information visit: [www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/resources/secondary-school.html](http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/resources/secondary-school.html)

#### What schools should avoid?

- ✗ There is research evidence to suggest that some approaches are **not** likely to be effective in road safety education and schools should avoid programs or initiatives that:
- ✗ Involve off-road driver training and especially **avoid** any driving skill based programs
- ✗ One day or one off events, forums and expos
- ✗ Rely on fear appeals or involve trauma ward visits, or testimonials from crash victims or offenders
- ✗ Rely on driver simulation including beer or fatal vision goggles
- ✗ Encourage participation or membership of racing car clubs or go-karting
- ✗ Are purely knowledge based and rely only on providing information or facts to create behaviour change.