



## FACTSHEET 11

## DRINK DRIVING

There are higher levels of alcohol use and a greater proportion of drink driving fatalities and serious injuries in regional and remote areas than in urban areas<sup>1,2</sup>. High visibility random enforcement, combined with public education, is a major deterrence strategy for drink driving, although there are additional challenges in regional and remote areas. For recidivism, a multifaceted approach using a combination of legal administrative sanctions (e.g., fines, demerit points, licence disqualification), therapeutic behaviour change programs, and alcohol interlocks to monitor behaviour is likely to give offenders the best opportunity to change drink driving behaviour<sup>6</sup>. The multi-modal approach is needed to target the risk factors for the behaviour and provide referral for support (e.g. substance use dependence).

## Implementation considerations

## Random Breath Testing

Limited resources and extensive road networks can hinder effective random breath testing programs in regional/remote areas.

## Public Education and Community Programs

Public education should support enforcement and promote strategies to separate drinking from driving.

Programs are popular but can be costly so need to focus on evidence-based initiatives and longer-term multi-component approaches (e.g., Good Sports Program). Consider alternative transport schemes.

## Behavioural Programs for Drink Driving Offenders

To be effective, programs should build close partnerships with health, alcohol and other drug sectors to support, manage and treat substance dependent drivers.

Offenders in regional and remote areas need access to behavioural programs and that these programs are affordable and tailored to be culturally relevant for all offenders.

## Alcohol Interlocks Programs

Follow best practice guidelines for programs<sup>1</sup>. Consider addressing underlying factors behind the offence, particularly those relating to substance use disorders.

Consider the financial resources and servicing options needed in remote areas<sup>3</sup>.

## Target road user groups

Vehicle Drivers and Motorcyclists

## Target behaviour

Drink driving

## Effectiveness

## Alcohol Interlock Programs

Alcohol interlock programs can reduce drink driving recidivism by around 25-30% and have been associated with decreases in alcohol crashes while installed<sup>3</sup>.

## Public Education and Community Programs

Participants in the Good Sports education program were 37% less likely to drink at risky levels than members from non-participating clubs and the program reduced the risk of alcohol-related harm to club members by 42%<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Austroads, 2020b, Effectiveness of drink driving countermeasures — A national policy framework. (AP-R613-20). Sydney, NSW: Austroads.

<sup>2</sup> Wundersitz, L. and Raftery, S., 2017, Understanding the context of alcohol impaired driving for fatal crash-involved drivers: a descriptive case analysis. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 18(8), pp.781-787.

<sup>3</sup> Austroads 2019a, National view on regional and remote road safety (AP-R603-19), Sydney NSW: Austroads.

<sup>4</sup> Elder R., Voas, R., Beirness, D., Shults, R., Sleet, D.A., Nichols, J. and Compton, R., 2011, Effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes: A community guide systematic review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 40(3), pp.362-376.

<sup>5</sup> Rowland, B., Allen, F. and Toubourou, J., 2012, Association of risky alcohol consumption and accreditation in the 'Good Sports' alcohol management programme. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 66(8), pp.684-690.

<sup>6</sup> Mills, L., Freeman, J., Davey, J. and Davey, B., 2021, The who, what and when of drug driving in Queensland: Analysing the results of roadside drug testing, 2015–2020. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 159, 106231, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2021.106231>



Scan the QR code to access the full library of 21 factsheets.

