



## FACTSHEET 14

## UNLICENSED DRIVING

In Australia, unlicensed driving was found to be more prevalent in fatal crashes in remote areas (19%) than in fatal crashes in regional areas (3%) or major cities (9%)<sup>1</sup>. People in regional and remote areas can face significant challenges in obtaining a driver licence. Learner drivers can face problems of accessibility and affordability of licensing and training services, availability of supervising drivers, and access to vehicles. Aboriginal people also face significant barriers in obtaining a driver's licence<sup>2</sup>. The lack of a driver's licence can negatively impact an individual's access to employment, education, health care and community support thus leading to unlicensed driving. Unlicensed drivers may also be those who have had their licence suspended, disqualified or cancelled. Two types of countermeasures for unlicensed driving are administrative and community initiatives to facilitate licensing and detection, and deterrence of unlicensed driving.

## Implementation considerations

## Community Initiatives

Programs to facilitate learner drivers to meet the requirements to obtain a driver's licence are available in some jurisdictions for people from a disadvantaged background and Aboriginal people in remote areas.

Further access to training and licensing services in remote areas is needed, possibly aided by technology. Approaches that consider more effective legal measures, the use of technologies and behavioural interventions are needed<sup>1</sup>.

## Detection and Deterrence

Police can undertake licence checks at roadside stations for alcohol and drug testing in Australia. A less resource intensive method of detecting unlicensed driving is Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

ANPR has the ability to read the number plates of passing vehicles and check if they are registered to a driver who is unlicensed, though it will not detect unlicensed drivers who are driving a vehicle registered to a licensed driver<sup>3</sup>.

## Electronic Driver Licence (EDL)

Check to see if the jurisdiction has EDLs so that EDL systems can be implemented.

## Effectiveness

Electronic Driver Licence (EDL) systems have been regarded as potentially the most effective tool for preventing unlicensed driving<sup>3</sup>.

## Target road user groups

Vehicle Drivers and Motorcyclists

## Target behaviour

Unlicensed driving

<sup>1</sup> Austroads 2019a, National view on regional and remote road safety (AP-R603-19). Sydney NSW: Austroads.

<sup>2</sup> Cullen, P., Clapham, K., Hunter, K., Treacy, R. and Ivers, R., 2016, Challenges to driver licensing participation for Aboriginal people in Australia: A systematic review of the literature, *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 15, pp.134-144.

<sup>3</sup> Austroads, 2013, Developing measures to reduce unlicensed driving (AP-R424/13). Sydney, NSW: Austroads.



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