

New Drink and Drug Driving Laws

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Connecting
our communities



Stronger drink and drug driving penalties

Key changes from 30 April 2018

1. Drink and drug driving penalty changes:

- **Drink driving** – All offences result in licence cancellation, disqualification and mandatory alcohol interlock condition
- **Drug driving** (oral fluids) – Increased suspension or cancellation period

2. New Drink and Drug Driver Behaviour Change Program (BCP)

New licensing requirement to complete a BCP in all cases

- Drink Driver Program** or **Drug Driver Program** (6 hour program prior to becoming licensed or suspension ending)
- Intensive Drink and Drug Driver Program** – (10 hour program prior to becoming licensed + 2 hour program prior to alcohol interlock removal for drink drivers)

The legislative changes will most affect lower BAC reading drink drivers:

Currently:

- Depending on licence type and BAC reading, penalties may include:
 - 10 demerit points for BAC between .05 and .07
 - Cancellation/disqualification
 - Education course for offenders under 26
 - Alcohol interlock

From 30 April 2018

- All drink drivers: licence cancellation + Drink Driver Program + alcohol interlock
- 3 month TIN licence ban for first offence full licence holder 0.05 – 0.069, commercial driver first offence below 0.05
- 3 - 6 months in court depending on offence and licence type
- Mandatory Drink Driver Program

The legislative changes will most impact first time offenders:

Currently:

- First offenders:
 - TIN: 3 months suspension
 - Court: cancellation and minimum 3 months disqualification
- Repeat offences: cancellation and minimum 6 months disqualification

From 30 April 2018

- First offenders:
 - TIN: 6 months suspension
 - Court: cancellation and minimum 6 months disqualification
- Repeat offences: cancellation and minimum 12 months disqualification
- Mandatory Drug Driver Program



Rationale for the Drink and Drug Driver Behaviour Change Program

How is the new program different from the current one?

- Reflects evidence and best practice from the acute health, alcohol and drug sectors
- Focuses on health outcomes
- Two program levels, for less and more serious offences

Improving outcomes for offenders

- New standards and training for providers
- Uses motivational interviewing, behaviour change and other techniques
- Providers must have links with treatment services
- Screening for AOD issues, facilitated referral
- All drink and drug drivers can benefit, and are required to complete

Operation

- VicRoads will manage program providers
- Integrated with the alcohol interlock program for drink-drivers

Drink and Drug Driver Behaviour Change Program

First offenders
(first drug; first drink drivers BAC below .15)

6 Hour Drink Driver Program

OR

6 Hour Drug Driver Program

Serious offenders
(repeat drug/drink; drink drivers BAC .15 +, others)

10 Hour Intensive Drink & Drug Driver Program

+

2 Hour Pre-Interlock Removal Program*

*drink drivers only



Strengthening relationships and enhanced support

1. Strengthening connections between existing providers
2. Opportunity for new relationships
3. Early screening for alcohol/drug dependency
4. Facilitated referrals
5. Monitoring of referrals to identify demand
6. Ongoing strategic relationships
7. Commitment to engagement of AOD sector

