

Development of a new drink and drug driving package

Sharon Wishart,
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Connecting
our communities



Overview

- Towards Zero 2016 // 2020
- Drink and drug-driving legislation
- Behaviour Change Program
- Evaluation framework
- Fitness to Drive
- EOI – providers for Behaviour Change Program



Towards Zero 2016 // 2020

- A revised enforcement strategy
- **All drink-drivers must use alcohol interlocks on becoming licensed**
- **Increased licence sanction for drug-driving**
- **More effective behaviour change programs for drink and drug-drivers**
- Promotion - separating drinking from driving, not trying to manage BAC levels through monitoring standard drinks

**Drinking. Driving.
They're better apart.**

Stronger drink and drug-driving penalties

Key changes from 30 April 2018

Drink-driving – All offences result in licence cancellation, disqualification & mandatory alcohol interlock condition

Drug-driving (oral fluids) – Increased suspension (TIN) or cancellation (Court) period

New Drink and Drug-Driver Behaviour Change Program (BCP) – all offenders to complete

- i. Drink-Driver Program or Drug-Driver Program
- ii. Intensive Drink and Drug-Driver Program



New behaviour change program principles

1. All convicted drink or drug-drivers to participate
2. More intensive program for offenders with high AOD use & problem behaviours
3. Alcohol/drug dependent offenders given active referrals to treatment
4. Include cognitive behavioural and motivational techniques; some education; address risk taking, impulsivity & decision making
5. Programs delivered by agencies affiliated with AOD/health agencies (this does not mean that they ARE AOD/health agencies)
6. Programs tailored to address specific needs e.g. women, indigenous, CALD, low literacy
7. Drink-driving programs should be integrated with interlock programs

New behaviour change program variants

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



New behaviour change program approach

1. Completely separate drinking/drug use from driving
2. Intoxication is not the only risk factor
3. Harm reduction focus - targets drink & drug-driving related harm over drug/alcohol use
4. Help participants to understand drink & drug-driving motivators in order to change drink & drug- driving behaviour
5. Reasons for change and strategies to be generated by the group; program providers to facilitate, rather than deliver
6. Strong motivational interviewing approach throughout
7. Support development of action plans to separate drinking or drug- use from driving
8. Target preventing relapse

Evaluation framework & plan

- Program Logic Model
- Short term - process evaluation:
 - Program delivered as intended
 - Survey participants for views of program (before/after)
 - Program participant feedback about their behaviours
 - Treatment sought
 - Offence & unlicensed driving levels
- Long term - outcome evaluation:
 - Offence and crash rate before/after analysis (5 years after data)
 - Difficulties due to six offender groups (re: enough sample)
 - May not be able to assess all individual components
 - Behaviour change programs modest effect (5%-10% reductions)
 - Important to consider enforcement levels
 - Length of time between re-licensing and re-offending

VicRoads Medical Review function - context

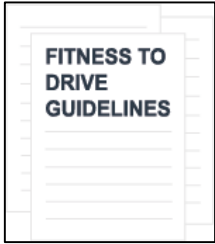
1. Victorian Fitness to Drive Policy

- Its about 'fitness to drive' irrespective of age.
- No mandatory medical reporting: drivers encouraged to talk to health practitioners about addiction/health/disability & driving
- No mandatory age based health or driver skill testing: drivers drive to any age, so long as medically fit
- Drivers obligated under law to self report any medical condition impacting ability to drive safely.
- After age 75, only three year driver licence renewal periods

2. VicRoads Medical Review role

- Apply national 2016 '*Assessing Fitness to Drive Guidelines*' (AFTD).
- Considers individuals on a case by case basis using risk assessment
- Makes the final licensing decisions re 'fitness to drive' considering medical/other info (e.g. police/court reports, driving assessments)

Medical Review Team functions: - activities



Implements
policy



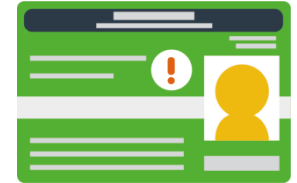
Investigates
notifications



Prioritises
cases based
on risk



Reviews
medical reports



Licensing
decisions
(case by case)



Customer
relationships



72 hour '*one
action to next
action*'



Interacts with
External
stakeholders



Data and
portfolio
intelligence

Medical Review process overview- context

Overview of the medical review process: Case-by-case assessment and decision making by VicRoads

Victoria's medical review system is based on self or community based referral model

Self Reporting

All drivers are obligated under law to report to VicRoads any long term medical/disability conditions that could adversely impact FTD

Family or community reporting

For genuine concerns about someones ability to drive safely.
Can be anonymous reporting

Fitness to Drive based on national Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) requirements

Health Professional referrals

Health professionals can refer driver directly to VicRoads, preferably with their knowledge.
Can be anonymous reporting

Police referrals

Drivers are advised about Police referrals that raise concerns about their FTD

Notifications to VicRoads Medical Review

VicRoads legally obligated to investigate all notifications

Assessments required

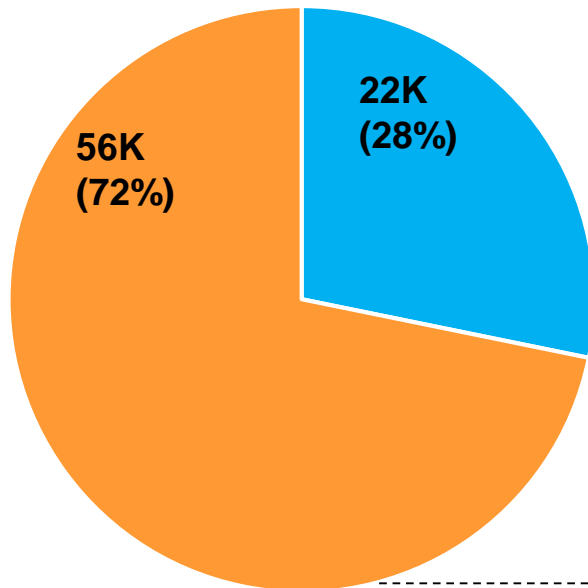
- > For ALL drivers: Medical Report (GP)
- > If required
 - Specialist Medical Report
 - Eyesight Report
 - Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment
 - Medical Review Driver test
 - Expert analysis - external medical advisors

Licensing decisions made by VicRoads

- Licence without conditions
- Licence varied with conditions (eg. area restrictions, vehicle modifications, spectacle condition, no night driving)
- Licence suspended or cancelled
- Options for retest/further driving lessons
- Periodical medical review (as guided by AFTD)

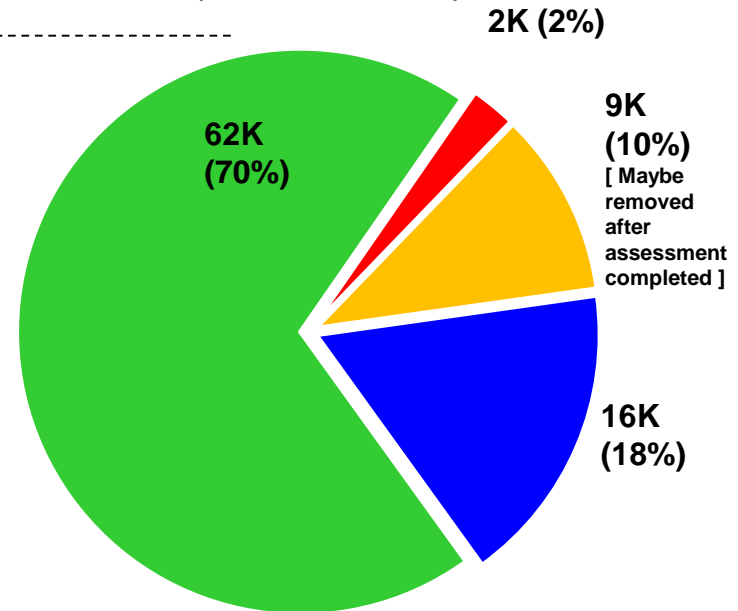
Medical Review Assessments: Demand and outcomes – 2016/17

New and Existing customers
(FY 2016/17)



■ New customers ■ Existing customers reviewed periodically

Assessment Outcomes
(FY 2016/17)



- Customer licence suspensions during assessment process
- No Further reports required
- Licence condition outcomes (eg Periodic reviews, Corrective lenses, restricted area, modified vehicle)
- Customer surrender licence outcomes





Health practitioner/provider role in medical review process to enhance road safety

- Identify individuals with addiction/health/multiple issues requiring medical intervention
- Refer for intervention, explain benefits and facilitate uptake
- Educate drivers: majority not aware of legal obligations to report permanent or long term health, disability conditions that impact on driving to VicRoads Medical Review
- Explain role of VicRoads Medical Review and direct to web resources
- Medical review includes medical assessment and on-road tests if relevant
- Monitor compliance with referral for intervention/self referral to VicRoads if appropriate to your role
- Exercise health professional obligations regarding enhancing public safety: refer anonymously if driver not compliant



Medical Review referral – red flags

Risk assessment should consider driver

- History of risky behaviour, police reports outlining concerns
- Ignores advice, fails to comply with licence suspension
- Poor social/family support to support compliance
- Multiple/significant issues, e.g. mental health diagnosis, multiple health issues, history of brain injury, low compliance
- Lacks insight into potential consequences, narcissistic tendencies
- Places others/the public at risk with behaviours
- Vehicles driven e.g. work related, commercial licence holders more exposure = higher risk
- Be sure to document your assessment and action in notes
- Refer to VicRoads if driver fails to self refer and/or you have concerns



Resources

- VicRoads webpage vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Use “Health Professional” and “medical review” key terms to find correct webpages for fact sheets and information about the medical review process and reporting drivers

VicRoads Expression of Interest – approved provider drink and drug driver behaviour change program

1. Expression of Interest will open mid to late February
2. Seeking providers across the 3 program types;
 1. Drink Driver Program,
 2. Drug Driver Program, and
 3. Intensive Drink & Drug Driver Program
3. Geographical analysis will identify the required program type/s throughout Victoria
4. Opening of EOI will be provided via VADDA communication channels, also
5. Please visit the VicRoads website Business and Industry page for more information

THANK YOU

Sharon Wishart – Senior Policy Officer

Driver Performance, Road User & Vehicle Access

VicRoads

Sharon.Wishart@roads.vic.gov.au – 9854 2714

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