

DRINK & DRUG DRIVING

Just a couple of drinks? **Just don't drive!**

Impaired driving endangers everyone on the road

Keeping everyone safe on South Australian roads starts with making smart choices and one of the most important is never driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Drink and drug driving continues to be a major cause of deaths and serious injuries across our state.

Here's what you need to know to stay safe and stay legal.

Why drink and drug driving is so dangerous

Alcohol and drugs affect your body and mind in ways that make safe driving almost impossible. Even small amounts can lead to:

- slower reaction times
- poor judgement and decision making
- reduced vision and hearing
- poor coordination
- over-confidence that leads to risky behaviour.

Every person is affected differently. Things like age, gender, body size, how much you've eaten, and how quickly you drink all influence your blood alcohol concentration.

Drugs also stay in your system for different lengths of time depending on the type, quantity, and whether they were taken with other substances.

What the law says in South Australia

It's an offence to:

- drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- drive with a blood alcohol concentration at or above the legal limit
- drive with a prescribed drug in your system
- refuse roadside testing (alcotest, breath analysis, drug test, or blood test).

Driving under the influence (DUI)

You must not drive any type of vehicle, including cars, trams, bicycles, animal drawn vehicles, ridden animals, or motorised wheelchairs capable of more than 10 km/h, if alcohol or drugs have impaired your ability to control it safely. Signs of impairment can include:

- slurred speech
- unsteady balance
- bloodshot eyes
- confusion or slow responses.

Legal alcohol limits – Prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA)

- Learners, provisional and probationary drivers: 0.00 blood alcohol concentration (BAC).
- Drivers of taxis, buses, heavy vehicles, or dangerous goods vehicles: 0.00 BAC.
- All other drivers: 0.049 BAC or under.

If you're not sure don't drive.

Prescribed drugs

You must not drive with any of the following drugs in your system:

- Cannabis (THC)
- Methylamphetamine (speed)
- MDMA (ecstasy)
- Cocaine hydrochloride (cocaine).

Police conduct roadside saliva tests that can detect these substances quickly and accurately.

Penalties

Drink or drug driving can lead to:

- fines up to \$2,900
- licence disqualification
- accumulation of demerit points
- vehicle impoundment or forfeiture
- in serious cases, imprisonment.

These consequences are serious, but the real cost is the risk of causing harm or death to yourself, your passengers, or others on the road.

Plan ahead and make safe choices

If you're heading out and plan to drink or take drugs, think ahead:

- Choose a designated driver.
- Organise a lift to and from the venue.
- Use public transport.
- Catch a taxi or rideshare.
- Consider staying the night.

One smart decision can save a life.

About the SA Police Road Safety Centre

The SA Police Road Safety Centre leads the way in road safety education across South Australia. Our programs help reduce road trauma by building the awareness, knowledge, and skills of all road users – supporting safer journeys through lifelong learning.

Want to learn more?

Explore our full range of programs and resources:

 www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety

Or simply **scan the QR code** in this fact sheet to go straight to our road safety page.

Book a FREE road safety session

We offer engaging, practical sessions for schools, community groups, and organisations.

 SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au

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