



RACBN-4347

Information for parents and caregivers

What is RAC bstreetsmart?

Since 2012, RAC bstreetsmart has been making a significant impact on thousands of secondary school students by providing a powerful, real-life perspective on the consequences of dangerous driving.

The program includes:

- » A live crash scene re-enactment with emergency services responding as they would in real life.
- » Personal stories from those who have been directly impacted by road trauma.
- » Opportunities for students to engage with emergency services personnel and learn more about road safety.

Why is this event important?

Young drivers are one of the most vulnerable groups on our roads, and the transition to unsupervised driving after obtaining a license is particularly dangerous¹:

- » 122 people aged 17-19 are killed or seriously injured annually on WA roads (2019-2023 average)
- » 17-19-year-old drivers have the highest rate of death or serious injury than any other age group, about double the WA average.
- » For 17-19-year-olds, around 55 per cent of fatal and serious injuries in WA are males.
- » Some research suggests crash risk is typically highest in the first 12 months of a Provisional licence².

Key risk factors

- » Lack of experience – New drivers take time to develop hazard awareness and safe decision-making.
- » Overconfidence and Risk-taking behaviour – Young drivers, especially males, may underestimate dangers and overestimate their abilities.
- » Peer influence – Carrying passengers increases the likelihood of risky driving and crashes. New WA laws restrict red P-platers to only carry one passenger, unless an exemption applies.

How can parents & caregivers help?

- » Set clear boundaries for when your teen starts driving unsupervised and ensure they understand road laws.
- » Encourage them to speak up if they feel unsafe as a passenger or see unsafe driving.
- » Aim for 80-140 hours of supervised practice (beyond the 50+5 mandatory amount). Research suggests that this amount is optimal for improved skills and reduced crash risk.
- » Practice driving in different conditions during the learner phases (night, wet weather, highways, rural roads, activity centres etc.).
- » Support your teen in choosing a safe vehicle. Vehicles with high Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) or Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR) safety ratings significantly reduce crash risks.