

Speaker's notes

# What's the law – Driving

## How to use these notes

**Topic:** Driving with a valid licence, learner licences, car registration, seatbelt requirements, child restraints, paying fines.

**Resources:** *What's the law?* education kit 'Driving', which contains a photo story (on DVD), activity sheets and answer sheets.

These notes provide guidelines for a speaker's script and information on how to use these resources when presenting to a community group. The notes include a story summary, questions and answers, key messages, areas for further discussion and referral information.

## 1. Preparing to present

It may be useful to read the activity and answer sheets to prepare for your presentation - they may give you ideas for additional questions and activities for your group. It is also a good idea to look at the websites and referral information given in section nine of these notes.

If you need assistance with presentation skills, engagement ideas or coordination support for the group you are preparing for you can contact [communitylegaled@legalaid.qld.gov.au](mailto:communitylegaled@legalaid.qld.gov.au) or 3238 3431.

## 2. Introduce yourself and *What's the law?*

Before you begin the presentation, introduce yourself, your role and your organisation.

For example, if you work at Legal Aid Queensland:

- Legal Aid Queensland helps the community in many different ways if they have problems with the law. We provide legal education to newly-arrived communities about their rights and responsibilities.

Refer to the *What's the law?* education kit and its purpose by mentioning these key points:

- We see many different newly-arrived communities get into trouble with the law and often it is the same legal problems that arise. These legal troubles can be avoided if you know some simple information about the law and where to go to for help before your problem becomes serious.
- The photo stories in *What's the law* have been made to help you learn about the law on ten different topics.

Begin with some introductory statements and general questions about the topic:

- Today we will show you a photo story on driving, as we know that many of you want to drive as soon as you can.
- There are many driving rules that we all must follow once we have a driver licence. If we don't follow these rules, we can get fines and maybe even lose our licence.
- How many of you have a driver licence?
- What type of licence do you have?
- How many of you are taking driving lessons to prepare for your driver licence?

## 3. Summarise the photo story

- This story is about Ram, a husband and father of two children, who is new to Australia.

- Ram has bought a car and is driving with a licence from his home country.
- Ram is happy because driving helps him find a job and helps his wife get all the shopping home.
- Ram is stopped by a police officer when he is driving with his family in the car.
- The police officer fines Ram and Ram can no longer drive the car.

#### 4. Ask questions

To strengthen engagement with the photo story and develop the group's legal literacy, ask key questions before showing the story. This will encourage the group to watch actively and think about key messages.

While you are watching the photo story, think about the next three questions:

- 1) **Can Ram drive his car with an overseas licence?**
- 2) **What does Ram need to do before he can drive his car?**
- 3) **How should Ram's children travel in the car?**

#### 5. Show the photo story



#### 6. Answer the questions

Ask the same key questions after you show the story and allow for discussion to tease out the right answers.

##### **Can Ram drive his car with an overseas licence?**

- No, there are rules about driving with an overseas licence in Queensland.
- The rules cover how long you may be able to drive on a licence from other countries. These rules can depend on whether you hold a temporary or permanent visa.
- Contact the Department of Transport and Main Roads on 13 23 80 to find out if you can drive with an overseas licence.
- If you drive without a driver licence you may get a fine or have to go to court. You may even lose your licence.
- You cannot drive on your L plates without a fully licensed driver instructing you.

##### **What does Ram need to do before he can drive his car?**

- If you are driving anywhere in Queensland, you must pay a registration fee to the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

##### **How should Ram's children travel in the car?**

- They are not wearing seatbelts. This is not safe for the children. You can be fined for not wearing seatbelts, both adults and children.
- Children under seven, or less than 145cm tall, should be in child seats.
- Contact the Department of Transport and Main Road on 13 23 80 to find out more.

#### 7. Emphasise key messages

- There are many driving rules. It is important to be aware of them if you want to drive.
- If you break driving laws you can be fined and may have to go to court.
- For traffic offences that lead to a fine as being the most harshest penalty, Legal Aid Queensland will probably refer you to information sheets to assist you to deal with the matter. If you find it difficult to speak in English and need an interpreter, you may be able to get assistance in court by a Legal Aid Queensland lawyer.

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- Call Department of Transport and Main Roads 13 23 80 for any questions about overseas licences, registering your car or child restraints.

## 8. Further questions and discussion

- Does anyone have any questions?

You are not expected to be a lawyer to use this resource, many teachers and community workers use this resource successfully. If a participant raises personal legal issues, you can provide referral information. If you are not a lawyer, legal assessment or advice should be referred to **Legal Aid Queensland** on **1300 65 11 88** or the closest **community legal centre**.

## 9. Possible discussion points and referral information

### Child restraint information

- [Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)

### Driving lessons

- Your local Migrant Resource Centre may be able to refer you to some driving schools in your area.

### Debt from fines and vehicle purchase finance

You can show the 'Buying a car' or 'Car accident' photo story if time permits.

- Financial counselling may be able to assist with debt and finance issues. Search for a financial counsellor close to the group: [www.financialcounselingaustralia.org.au/Corporate/Find-a-Counsellor](http://www.financialcounselingaustralia.org.au/Corporate/Find-a-Counsellor)  
You can talk to a financial counsellor on the phone from anywhere in Australia by ringing 1800 007 007.
- Check if your local community legal centre offers financial counselling services:  
[www.qails.org.au](http://www.qails.org.au)

### Insurance issues or complaints

You can show the 'Buying a car' or 'Car accident' photo story if time permits.

- If you have a complaint or problem with the service provided by a financial organisation, you can complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service: 1300 780 808  
Email: [info@fos.org.au](mailto:info@fos.org.au)  
[www.fos.org.au](http://www.fos.org.au)

### Vehicle registration

- Department of Transport and Main Roads: 13 23 80

### Roadside Assistance - RACQ

- RACQ offers roadside assistance that can help if your vehicle breaks down. This service is not free  
[www.racq.com.au](http://www.racq.com.au)